

# Friendraiser 2013

## Come Together...



Celebrating the pieces that make life whole for children who are sick and disabled

601 West 26th Street, Suite 522, New York, NY 10001 • [www.skipofny.org](http://www.skipofny.org)  

# Friendraiser 2013

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## In honor of...

...the seminal career of Jim Moran for all he has done to ensure the best care and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in New York

...Katie Wright, for her courage, conviction and heart in advocating so fiercely for ways forward in the autism community

...all of the pieces that must come together for SKIP to continue its work on behalf of children who are medically fragile, seriously ill or developmentally disabled—the fighters, the supporters, the staff, the advocates, the partners and the most critical piece of all: the will among all who love SKIP of New York and the children we serve to dig deep, one more time and then again, and once again and as many times as it takes ...to find the way home for the most vulnerable among us.  
It is not something you ever give up on.



*Because there's no place like home*

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## *Our Mission*

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*Because there's no place like home*

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SKIP's mission is to restore and maintain the primacy of family and home for sick and developmentally disabled children in the state of New York. Through its advocacy and support, SKIP helps families access the services required to care for these children in their own homes, giving them their childhood and enabling them to reach their full potential.

SKIP (Sick Kids [Need] Involved People) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in 1983.



## *Board of Directors*

Philip Lawrence – President

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Amy Putman – Secretary

Jane Ross – Treasurer

Hannah Freilich

Hillary Hughes

Deirdre Imus

Debra Kupper

Yves Mikol, Ph.D.

Priscilla Warner

*Building families. Granting childhoods.*

*Helping sick and disabled kids in New York live at home.*

## **SKIP is short for Sick Kids [Need]**

**Involved People** but it's long on the kind of assistance that helps thousands of very sick and/or developmentally disabled children in the state of New York each year get (and stay!) home from hospitals and institutions to live with their families.

SKIP of New York is the only 501 (c)(3) non-profit agency of its kind. It is based on the belief that every child deserves a shot at the best childhood possible, including children who are medically fragile and/or developmentally disabled. Through service coordination, advocacy and hands-on problem solving, more than 150 SKIP case managers make sure the more than 3,000 children they work with each year get that chance.

SKIP began at a kitchen table with one tough set of parents who had been around the bend and back fighting for the services their sick daughter needed to get home from the hospital. They'd stared down the obstacles and won. They then offered what they'd learned to other parents, helping them overcome the hurdles that stood between their own disabled children and home. Each case was unique. Each case still is. As SKIP has grown, we've added new systems and more sophisticated checks, balances and protocols.

These changes have been critical for the growth needed to meet the ever-increasing demand for our services. The grassroots fight-to-the-finish bite that got that first child home, followed by the second, the third and the thousands more has remained the same. We love our kids and work on their behalf with the same raw intensity that launched SKIP 30 years ago.

**Tonight, you are part of an effort to bring critical help to more disabled children.**

At any given time, there are up to 300 or more children on SKIP's waiting list. SKIP does not charge families for its services and we never turn a child away. Therefore, nearly as soon as a child comes off our wait list, another goes on. Past SKIP Friendraisers have helped hundreds of these children. Tonight we can help hundreds more.



**SKIP | Sick Kids [Need] Involved People**

All proceeds from the 2013 Friendraiser go to the SKIP Julia Fund which is dedicated to getting children off the SKIP waiting list and into the services they need to live at home.

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Deirdre Imus

## Honorary Chair

Amy Putman

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# SKIP Friendraiser 2013

Honoring Jim Moran and Katie Wright as the 2013 Ruby Slipper Award Recipients

6:00 p.m.

Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres  
Silent Auction

7:00 p.m.

Welcome  
Video Profile of SKIP of New York  
Take a Kid Off the Wait List Presentation

7:30 p.m.

Wizard of SKIP Award Presentation  
Ruby Slipper Awards Presentation

8:00 p.m.

Cocktails & Dessert

## Presenters:

Courtney Burke  
Commissioner, the New York State Office for People  
With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

Deirdre Imus  
President & Founder,  
The Deirdre Imus Environmental Health Center®  
Co-Founder & Co-Director,  
The Imus Cattle Ranch for Kids with Cancer®

## Take a Kid off the Waitlist Auctioneers:

Rob Bartlett  
Actor, Stand-up Comedian, *Imus in the  
Morning* Radio Personality, Writer

Tony Powell  
Stand-up Comedian/Writer, *Imus in the  
Morning* Radio Personality

Tyrese Alleyne-Davis  
SKIP Ambassador

Host

*Bob Schieffer*

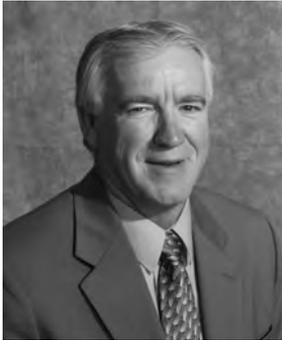
**Moderator, FACE THE NATION, CBS News Chief Washington Correspondent**



2013 marks Bob Schieffer's 56th year as a reporter and his 44th year at CBS News. He is one of the few broadcast or print journalists to have covered all four major beats in the nation's capital—the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department and Capitol Hill. He has been a principal anchor for CBS News since 1973.

Schieffer anchored the *CBS Evening News* from March 2005 to August 2006. He has served as the moderator of *Face the Nation*, CBS News' Sunday public affairs broadcast, since 1991. He is also CBS News' chief Washington correspondent, a post he has held since 1982.

# 2013 Ruby Slipper Award Honorees



*James Moran*

**For a distinguished career and a lifetime commitment to people with developmental disabilities**

Jim Moran has been with the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) for almost 30 years in various capacities. He was most recently Deputy Commissioner for Fiscal and Administrative Solutions and in July 2010, became Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner.

## *Addendum from SKIP of New York:*

True to the humility that defines Jim Moran, he prefers a short bio. However, he has been such a revered and trusted partner for SKIP and all who have worked with him to advance care and quality of life for children and adults with developmental disabilities in New York throughout his years at OPWDD that we cannot let him get away with so few words about himself. His warmth and passion for the population we jointly serve, mixed with his great integrity have made him such a treasure to us all. He is direct, with him we've always known where we stood. With time so often short and each passing hour so critical to consumer outcomes, we are profoundly grateful. He has worked with such passion all these years to do what is right, even in the face of vast systemic changes. His professionalism and all he contributed as well as the example he set in setting and administering policy will shore us up for years to come as he now heads into retirement. Thank you so very, very much Jim.



*Katie Wright*

**For her leadership in advancing public understanding of autism—its prevalence, causes, prevention, treatments and cure**

Autism advocate, champion, hero, mom: Katie Wright is a passionate crusader within the autism community. Dedicated to working to improve the lives of children and families affected by autism, she is devoted to raising awareness about the incidence and causes of autism as she campaigns for more environmental research and additional treatments for children on the spectrum. She and her husband have two boys, Mattias, who is 9 years old and Christian, who is 11 years old.

Katie received her undergraduate degree from Boston University and a Masters in Education and Counseling from Columbia University. After graduation, she was named clinical director of the sexual assault center of Stamford, CT providing free and confidential counseling services to male and female survivors of rape and sexual assaults. Katie resigned her position when Christian was diagnosed with autism at 2 ½ years old after appearing to develop typically, vocalizing, interacting and showing the affectionate behavior of a toddler. Though she loved her job and had a boss who was committed to accommodating the added demands on her of caring for Christian, "Like all moms of kids with special needs," says Katie, "the doctor appointments, the therapy, the school placement issues took up all my time."

Katie became active in autism advocacy and research in 2005. A contributor to "Age of Autism," the daily web newspaper of the autism epidemic, Katie also sits on the board of SafeMinds and the National Autism Association.

Her parents, Bob and Suzanne Wright, founded Autism Speaks in 2005. Katie says, "I fully support their work but my passion is environmental research."

# Presenter

## Courtney Burke

**Commissioner, the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)**



Courtney Burke is commissioner of the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). She was unanimously confirmed to this position by the State Senate on April 11, 2011.

Ms. Burke has a long career in health and disability policy. Most recently, from 2007 to 2011, she served as director of The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government's New York State Health Policy Research Center (HPRC), where she oversaw all health policy research. She directed projects on topics such as administration of long-term care under the Medicaid program, health reform implementation, Medicaid waivers, Medicaid funding for nonprofits, and policies for expanding private insurance coverage. She previously worked for six years as the senior research scientist in the Rockefeller Institute's Health and Medicaid studies program, where she published numerous research papers and articles.

Prior to joining the Institute, Burke worked at the New York State Department of Health and as the senior policy analyst at the New York State Office of Advocate for Persons with Disabilities on a range of issues affecting individuals with disabilities.

Courtney Burke has made reform her priority at OPWDD, shoring up how the agency trains and supports employees and holds people accountable, and the types of services and programs available to individuals with developmental disabilities. A staunch proponent of community-based service, one of her key priorities has been implementing systems of care that provide individuals and their family members more control over the services they need to live their lives.

Burke has a master's degree in health policy and management from the School of Public Health, University at Albany, and a bachelor's degree in political science and journalism from the University of Connecticut.

A recognized expert on health policy issues, Burke's research has appeared in journals, magazines, and newspapers around the country. She has been a guest on television and radio programs and has been quoted in the Associated Press, The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, Governing magazine, Crain's Health Pulse, and in various New York State news outlets. She was named one of The Business Review's (Capital Region) "40 Under Forty" honorees for 2010.

# Presenter

*Deirdre Imus*

**National Leader for Children's Health and the Environment**



Deirdre Imus, Founder of the site devoted to environmental health, [dienviro.org](http://dienviro.org), is President and Founder of The Deirdre Imus Environmental Health Center® at Hackensack University Medical Center and Co-Founder/Co-Director of the Imus Cattle Ranch for Kids with Cancer. She is a New York Times best-selling author and a frequent contributor to [FoxNewsHealth.com](http://FoxNewsHealth.com), and Fox Business Channel.

In her quest to clean up the environment for our kids, Deirdre developed the award-winning Greening The Cleaning® program and product line, which replaces the hazardous ingredients commonly found in cleaning products with naturally-occurring mineral and plant based ingredients. The program and products are used throughout the country in schools, healthcare facilities, businesses and homes.

Deirdre has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors for her impact as a leader in the field of environmental health, and for raising awareness about childhood chronic illnesses that are in epidemic proportions like autism, asthma, and obesity. Deirdre serves on the boards of several children's health organizations, including the National Autism Association, Safe Minds, Generation Rescue, SKIP of New York, East Harlem Council for Human Services, Inc., Boriken Neighborhood Health Center and Gilda's Club – Northern NJ.

# Our Auctioneers

## Rob Bartlett

**Actor, Stand-up Comedian, *Imus in the Morning* Radio Personality, Writer**

A writer and performer on the nationally-syndicated *Imus in the Morning Show*, Rob Bartlett is among the most versatile performers around.

He began in stand-up comedy in 1978, supporting himself by day as an elevator operator



and radio advertising telephone salesman. He met 17-year-old Eddie Murphy and formed the improvisational trio The Identical Triplets. When the trio broke up, Rob became a solo act, headlining in comedy clubs and colleges across the country.

Rob became a regular guest of Don Imus in 1986. He has written and performed a repertoire of characters including Larry King, Hulk Hogan, Paula Dean, Karl from Slingblade, Blues Legend Blind Mississippi White Boy Pig Feets Dupris, and Disney's 'Gangsta' Mickey Mouse.

Rob's many film and TV credits include "Ugly Betty," "Late Night With David Letterman" and "Rob Bartlett's Not For Profit T.V. Special," which he wrote and starred in, and which won Emmys for Best Writing and Best Entertainment Program.

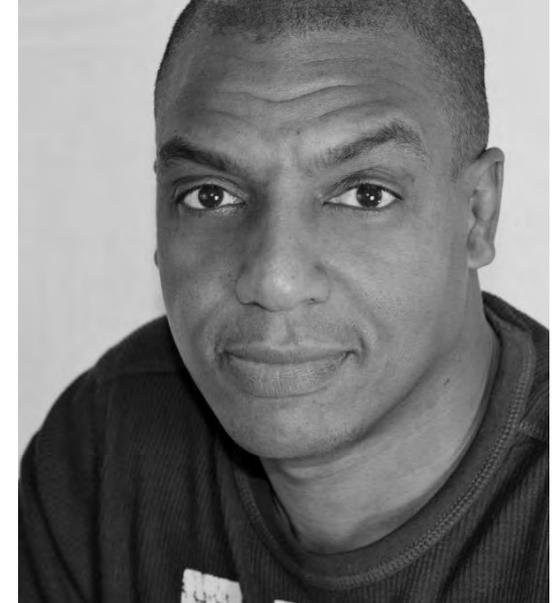
Rob made his Broadway debut as the author and star of "More to Love." His Broadway credits also include "Chicago," "The Little Shop of Horrors," "Sweet Charity," the revival of Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple" with Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick, and "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

His other stage appearances include "Golden Boy" and "Pardon My English" for City Center's Encores! Rob won a Drama Desk award for his role as Marcus in Rob Ackerman's "Tabletop."

## Tony Powell

**Stand-up Comedian/Writer, *Imus in the Morning* Radio Personality**

Veteran stand-up comic/writer Tony Powell can be seen and heard weekday mornings on the nationally syndicated radio program *The Imus in the Morning Show* which is also simulcast on the Fox Business Channel on cable televi-



# Our Auctioneers

sion and Direct TV. His television appearances include USA Live on USA Networks, "A&E Comedy on the Road" and NBC's "Showtime at the Apollo" to name a few. Tony has appeared in several national commercials including Visa All Star Café with Andre Agassi, Ritz Crackers, Dawn Dishwashing Liquid, Fila, Heineken, and he was also the national radio spokesperson for both Miller Genuine Draft and the U.S. Army.

As a stand-up comedian, Tony has worked as a warm-up for Bill Cosby and Nickelodeon's "Keenan and Kel." He has performed in the nation's premier comedy clubs including the Improv in Santa Monica, The Ice House in Pasadena, Charlie Goodnights in North Carolina and Gotham Comedy Club, The Comic Strip, Carolines and Dangerfields—all in New York City. He has opened for major recording artists such as the O'Jays, Spinners, Whispers, The Jets, GQ and The Platters. He has been a regular at The Caesars Pocono Resorts, The Tropicana and Taj Mahal in Atlantic City.

A Brooklyn native, Tony excelled academically and at the age of thirteen was accepted into the prestigious Choate Rosemary Hall boarding school. At sixteen he attended the University of Virginia where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Rhetoric Communications.

Tony resides in New York City with his wife and son.

## Tyrese Alleyne-Davis

### SKIP Ambassador

Irrepressible, bright and dynamic, 14-year-old Tyrese Alleyne-Davis has been a SKIP consumer for eight years. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy, doctors did not expect him to live. Tyrese and his mother, Felicia Alleyne—a tenacious advocate who has blazed an exemplary trail for her son, had other plans. Tyrese is a keynote speaker for the Starlight Foundation, competes in the Special Olympics and stars in a short film directed by Bennet Miller which was considered for a film festival. He petitioned to enter an 8th Grade speech competition in the 3rd Grade and won it! He loves Spiderman, sports and watching *Sports Center*. He creates his own comics. His idols are President Obama and Franklin Roosevelt. He wants to be President of the United States.



# SKIP of New York Thanks Our

## 2012

Dagen McDowell – Host  
Joseph & Donna Sanzari – Ruby Slipper Awardees  
Deirdre Imus – Presenter  
Rob Bartlett & Tony Powell – Live Auctioneers

## 2009

Mary Alice Williams – Host  
Phyllis & David Komansky – Ruby Slipper Awardees  
Bill White – Ruby Slipper Awardee  
Jonathan Alter – Presenter  
Deirdre & Don Imus – Presenters  
Rob Bartlett – Live Auctioneer

## 2011

Meredith Vieira – Host  
Larry Inserra, Jr. – Ruby Slipper Awardee  
Mick Ebeling – Ruby Slipper Awardee  
Deirdre Imus – Presenter  
Jonathan Alter – Presenter  
Tony Powell – Live Auctioneer

## 2007

Caroline Kennedy – Host  
Dorothy & Hamilton Jordan – Ruby Slipper Awardees  
Mortimer B. Zuckerman – Ruby Slipper Awardee  
Deirdre & Don Imus – Presenters  
Erin Moriarty – Presenter  
Rob Bartlett – Live Auctioneer

# Past Honorees, Presenters and Hosts



## 2006

Bob Schieffer – Host  
Joel & Susan Hollander – Ruby Slipper Awardees  
Dana Reeve – Ruby Slipper Awardee  
Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H. – Presenter  
Deirdre Imus – Presenter  
Rob Bartlett – Live Auctioneer

## 2005

Jonathan Alter – Host  
Alice & David Jurist – Ruby Slipper Awardees  
Caroline Kennedy – Ruby Slipper Awardee  
Deirdre Imus – Presenter  
Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H. – Presenter  
Rob Bartlett – Live Auctioneer

## 2004

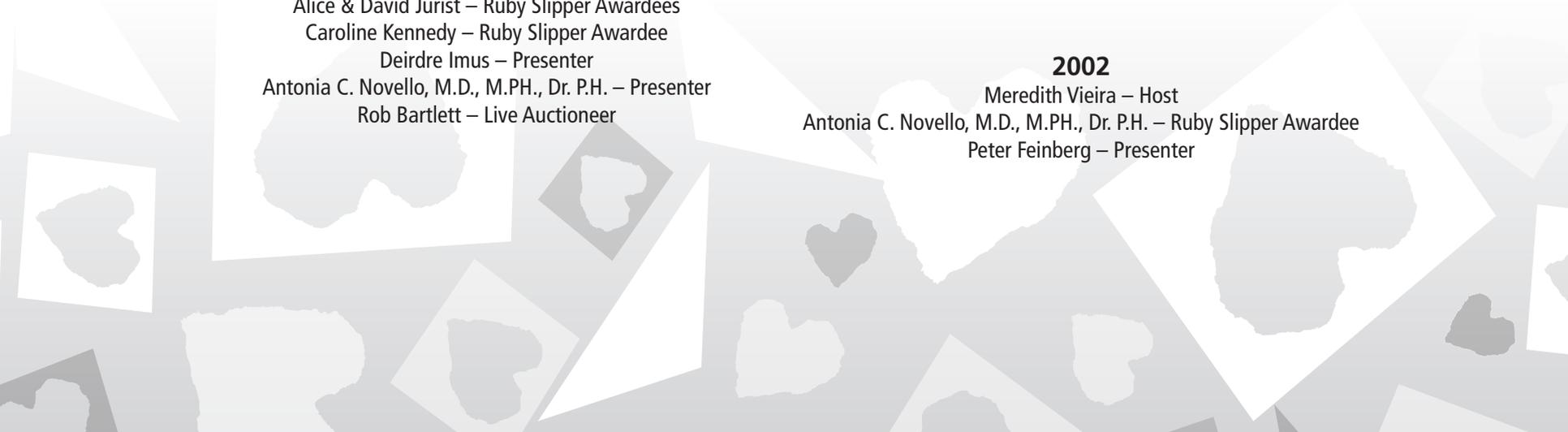
Jim Axelrod – Host  
Jim & Jill Kelly – Ruby Slipper Awardees  
Fred J. Epstein, M.D. – Ruby Slipper Awardee  
Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H. – Presenter

## 2003

Troy Roberts – Host  
Kathy Broderick – Ruby Slipper Awardee  
Deirdre Imus – Ruby Slipper Awardee  
Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H. – Presenter

## 2002

Meredith Vieira – Host  
Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H. – Ruby Slipper Awardee  
Peter Feinberg – Presenter



KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND  
NEW YORK



UNITED STATES SENATOR

May 15, 2013

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Katie Wright and Jim Moran on being awarded with the Ruby Slipper Award by SKIP of New York.

I am grateful to the dedicated efforts of Ms. Wright, Mr. Moran, and SKIP in supporting the families of chronically ill and developmentally disabled children. Their exemplary contributions allow these families to raise and care for their children in their own homes.

Ms. Wright has made a profound impact in advocating for the advancement of awareness, diagnosis, and treatment of autism. Mr. Moran has devoted his career to working on behalf of people with developmental disabilities in the state of New York. We owe both Ms. Wright and Mr. Moran, along with their colleagues at SKIP, a tremendous debt of gratitude for demonstrating the necessary commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of New York's most vulnerable children.

Congratulations once again on your accomplishments and best wishes for a memorable event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsten E. Gillibrand".

Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 15, 2013

Dear Friends:

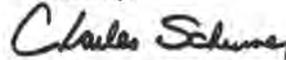
Please accept my warmest greetings and congratulations as you gather to celebrate Sick Kids [Need] Involved People of New York's "Come Together" Friendraiser. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the exemplary work of SKIP of New York and this year's honorees for their time, generosity and commitment.

SKIP of New York has played a vital role in the lives of countless children and their families in New York. SKIP of New York provides children with the opportunity to enjoy a joyous, fulfilling childhood with their friends and families instead of spending their precious time enduring long hospital stays. SKIP's mission focuses on assisting medically fragile, chronically ill and developmentally disabled children, who live at home with their families, have the supportive services and care needed. SKIP's resources have and continue to empower families of children facing terminal illness. I applaud SKIP of New York for their unwavering commitment to such an important endeavor.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate this year's honorees and recipients of the *Ruby Slipper Award*; Katie Wright, Autism Advocate and Contributing Editor, *Age of Autism*; and Jim Moran, Executive Deputy Commissioner, OPWDD. I am honored to join all gathered here in recognizing these outstanding individuals for their commitment to making whole the lives of children who are sick and disabled, and contributing to the prosperity of SKIP of New York and New York State. Their dedication to this noble endeavor is an inspiration to us all.

Again, thank you for your hard work and dedication to helping families lead better futures. I know SKIP of New York will continue these noble efforts for many years to come. Best wishes for a wonderful event.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



CHRISTINE C. QUINN  
SPEAKER



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
CITY HALL  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

TELEPHONE  
212-788-7210

May 15, 2013

Dear Friends,

Greetings to everyone gathered here tonight at SKIP of New York's Annual Fundraising Event!

One of the great privileges and joys of serving on the City Council is being able to see first-hand the extraordinarily good work being done by so many groups and organizations around the city. In neighborhoods all across the five boroughs, these groups are working hard to help strengthen our communities, improve our quality of life, and ensure that our city continues to grow and thrive.

On this special night of celebration, I would like to thank SKIP and its dedicated and caring staff for the very important work they are doing to help sick and disabled kids in New York live at home with their families. You've helped bring hope and happiness into the lives of some of our city's most vulnerable children, and we're so deeply grateful for your service.

I would also like to congratulate tonight's honorees, **Katie Wright** and **Jim Moran**.

My best wishes to everyone for a wonderful evening. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Christine C. Quinn  
Speaker



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

May 15, 2013

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone to tonight's Friendraiser, hosted by Sick Kids [Need] Involved People of New York.

Our Administration is committed to ensuring that all young New Yorkers have access to the tools and resources they need to lead healthy, fulfilling lives and reach their full potential. Since 1983, SKIP has been a tremendous ally in these efforts, bringing hope and happiness to thousands of severely ill or developmentally disabled young people. This organization provides families with the support services, education, and training programs that enable them to care for their children at home, where they are able to flourish and become part of their communities. We applaud SKIP's dedicated staff and generous donors for helping some of our most vulnerable residents experience the best childhood possible and look forward to their efforts reaching even more families in need.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, congratulations to this year's Ruby Slipper Award recipients – Katie Wright and Jim Moran. Please accept my best wishes for a terrific evening and continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Bloomberg".

Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor

**NEW YORK**  
state department of  
**HEALTH**

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner

Sue Kelly  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

May 15, 2013

Dear Friends,

I am very happy to send you my best wishes as you get together to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sick Kids [Need] Involved People of New York (SKIP). The annual SKIP Fundraiser, which is being held at the Starrett-Lehigh Building in Chelsea, is a celebration of the life-affirming work done every day by the staff, board of directors, and volunteers at SKIP.

It is important that all children, especially those who are sick or disabled, feel loved, comfortable, and safe. Being in a new environment like a hospital, and away from family and familiar surroundings can be frightening. The goal of SKIP is to do everything possible to arrange for these kids to be able to remain in their own beds, at home, among people who love them.

SKIP arranges to cut through red tape and bureaucracy, and works with the families, doctors, social service professionals, government agencies, and others to access needed services and to find ways to move them back to the comfort of their own home.

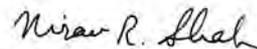
SKIP was the brainchild of Margaret and Yves Mikol, in response to their own family health crisis. In 1978, their daughter Julia was born with a life-threatening disease. In 1981, after spending many years of her young life in and out of hospitals, Julia became the first child in New York State living on life support to be able to live at home. Two years later her parents founded this wonderful organization that we salute tonight.

Today SKIP serves nearly 3,000 kids throughout the State of New York by finding a way to deliver life-sustaining medications, treatments, equipment, and other assistance, to ill kids in the child's home. Not only is this care more humane, but it is also less expensive than supplying these services in a hospital.

Tonight you honor: Katie Wright, for her work on behalf of children with autism, and Jim Moran, Executive Deputy Commissioner for the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, for his work on behalf of New Yorkers with developmental disabilities. I also express special thanks to tonight's MC, Bob Schieffer of CBS News; auctioneer, comedian Rob Bartlett; Event Chair, Deirdre Imus; and Honorary Chair Amy Putman, for coordinating this special evening.

The Cuomo administration and the New York State Department of Health are proud to work with SKIP to serve the special medical needs of sick kids around our state. Thank you for attending tonight's gala and for supporting the important work of SKIP.

Sincerely,



Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner of Health



May 15, 2013

SKIP of New York  
601 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite 522  
New York, NY 10001

Dear Friends:

Congratulations as you *Come Together* at SKIP of New York's 2013 Friendraiser. This year's event is focused on making life whole for children who are developmentally disabled. That aligns with the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) mission to help people with developmental disabilities live richer lives.

One of the highlights of tonight's friendraiser is the presentation of the Ruby Slipper award. The distinction is given to individuals who have made notable differences in the lives of children with special needs and their families. On behalf of OPWDD, it is with great honor that I join you in recognizing Jim Moran as one of this year's award recipients. Throughout his long and distinguished career, Jim has been a tireless advocate for the developmentally disabled. He has always been forthright, working with integrity and compassion to help those with special needs as well as the families and support systems that surround them.

I also join you in recognizing the work of Katie Wright toward the awareness, diagnosis and treatment of autism. Her dedication and advocacy has had a profound impact on making advancements for those affected by autism.

On behalf of the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, thank you to the families, friends and staff at SKIP of New York for you all truly *Come Together* to make the world a better place for those with developmental disabilities.

Sincerely,

Courtney Burke  
Commissioner

Executive Office

44 Holland Avenue, Albany, NY 12229-0001, TEL: 518-473-1997 FAX: 518-473-1271  
75 Morton Street, New York, NY 10014, TEL: 212-229-3231 FAX: 212-229-3234  
101 West Liberty Street, Rome, NY 13440, TEL: 315-336-2300 x246 FAX: 315-571-7118  
500 A Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12304 TEL: 518-381-2110 FAX: 518-381-2190  
TTY: 866-933-4889; [www.opwdd.ny.gov](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov)

carelle  
NEW YORK

*To the Reger Family and Carelle*

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For your creative wizardry, your enormous heart and endless giving.  
For the gorgeous SKIP Home Collection of jewelry that works so hard to bring sick and disabled kids home—every piece is precious because each supports the priceless gift of home and family for New York's most vulnerable young people.

*Thank You.*



# LOOK GOOD. DO GOOD.

Introducing the SKIP Home  
Collection of Jewelry by

**carelle**  
NEW YORK

Deirdre Imus

"When you purchase this jewelry, you'll look good and do good because all profits go to SKIP of New York to help make the dream of home real for thousands of sick and developmentally disabled kids." -Deirdre Imus, SKIP of NY Board Member

To see the full line of jewelry or place an order,  
visit [www.skipofny.org/store](http://www.skipofny.org/store)



*Because there's no place like home*

SKIP (Sick Kids [Need] Involved People) is  
a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



# Special thanks to our Auction Donors

ACME  
Anisa Alhilali  
AMC, Joel Stillerman  
Miriam Arond,  
Good Housekeeping Research Institute  
Janine Baron  
Rob Bartlett  
Beehives and Buzzcuts  
David Brooks  
Brandon and Fran Burchman  
Burger and Barrel  
CBS  
Frank Cicha  
The Colbert Report  
Color My Bubble  
Trinity Connors, New York Vintners  
The Daily Show with Jon Stewart  
Pamela Dey  
Malia Faleafine  
Four Seasons Washington, D.C.  
Fresco by Scotto  
Robert J. Gates  
Sue Hollenberg  
Hillary Hughes

Don and Deirdre Imus  
José Andrés Think Food Group  
Kittichai  
Aimee Kreger Brooks  
Late Show with David Letterman  
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Noelia Fernandez  
Artist

# Coming Together in 2013: A Message from Margaret

---

Dear Friends,

Some say the only constant in life is change. We've certainly seen plenty of it over the years at SKIP—sometimes celebratory, sometimes not so much. But, no matter what, we've always charted a course forward, thanks to the many and varied supporters that *Come Together* to keep SKIP strong. That is especially true this year as we continue to experience change like we've never seen before—as massive and unrelenting as it is extreme.

The enormous change in direction—regarding how families access services and what is available to them for their children—has come with little direction. It's leaving families without the doctors, therapies, equipment and support on which the well-being of their children rests and it's pushing families back to the type of panicked confusion they felt in the early days of SKIP. Not surprisingly, it's also driving demand for our help through the roof: Our waiting list has quadrupled in recent months. Meanwhile, hairpin-turn changes in funding—as sharp as they are unpredictable—are making the internal planning needed to accommodate this demand nearly impossible. Simultaneously, spates of procedural changes requiring system adjustments and, in some cases, overhauls, continue to consume our limited administrative resources.

Complicating matters even more, the cost of healthcare is on a totally different schedule than what can be compensated for because healthcare rates of reimbursement have no correlation with actual service delivery nor do they match what children who are medically fragile and/or developmentally disabled really need.

But we remain steadfast, committed to the same unyielding advocacy, in-the-trenches problem solving and informed service coordination mixed with a deep personal knowledge of each child that has always defined SKIP. We're working harder than ever before, doing more with less, and the results of what our 150 case managers achieve for families on a daily basis continue to fuel our efforts:

**Breathing life into muddles:** A child on an automatic delivery plan for oxygen was near the end of his monthly supply. His supplier, who was not in the child's new, mandated health plan which was on the cusp of kicking in, halted delivery. SKIP stepped in, untangled the bureaucracy and kept the oxygen flowing while the system caught up and a replacement supplier was put in place.

**Crusading in emergencies:** Nearly 200 SKIP families were impacted during Hurricane Sandy. SKIP was on the ground making hotel and temporary emergency lodging arrangements for displaced families, in one case, matching a SKIP family with another SKIP family who had opened their home!

## Coming Together in 2013:

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**Making college possible:** A SKIP child on life support is now a college freshman majoring in ecology thanks to SKIP's help in working with the school to make all accommodations and fieldwork adaptive.

**Sparing public assistance budgets:** When their child was moved to a new medical plan, SKIP parents lost home care services and were knocked out of work. SKIP got the home care reinstated. The parents returned to work, and the paychecks that keep the rent paid and public assistance at bay.

I am unendingly grateful for our committed, caring team of case managers, supervisors and the directors who lead them in this work: Donna, Jeremiah, Kelly, Kris, Malia, Nicole. You are the open lane in the traffic jams we confront each day. Thank you for carving ways forward with such grace, professionalism, compassion and determination.

Jane, for so very many years of being all, doing all and putting so much of your heart and soul into making SKIP what it is today, thank you!

Joann, for making it personal as you register children new to SKIP, thank you. It is your care, patience and precision in this first point of contact that set the stage for the boots-on-the-ground all that makes SKIP unique.

Kelly and your accounting team, for keeping the books, solving the puzzles and finding so many ways to squeeze more dollars from our dimes, thanks! To Debbie and Sonia—our inexhaustible volunteers, bottomless thanks for your unending giving.

Elena, you are the glue. We may all come together but you make sure we stay that way.

To our families—for letting us in so close, thank you. You are the reason we do our best work. We are lucky to know you.

To the SKIP Board of Directors, I am forever grateful for the time, talent and treasure you devote to our mission and the thousands of children who benefit from your gifts. We need you now more than ever. Philip, you are the ark, carrying us forward when the floods threaten.

Peter, for your years of dedication as a board member, many thanks. We miss you but remain grateful for your continued involvement.

# A Message from Margaret

---

Bob Schieffer, Deirdre Imus, Amy Putman—our Friendraiser heroes. Thank you for your leadership and the endless giving that make this event such an incredible celebration.

To the Friendraiser Committee—my hat's off to you. To Aimee, our auction hunter- forager extraordinaire, and to the inimitable Rob B., Tony and Tyrese, our auctioneer A Team, so many thanks.

Jim Moran, you are Exhibit A of all that works in our partnership with the state. Your retirement is like a vast resource library closing its doors. Your institutional knowledge combined with your open heart has facilitated so much of what we've been able to accomplish for children with disabilities in the state of New York. We will miss you but will carry on with all the good work that is your legacy.

Katie Wright, you are an advocate after my own heart. You remind us all of what a profound difference one passionate, bright, committed voice can make. You are a hero to all of us at SKIP and to the many families who manage the realities, joys and hurdles of parenting a child with autism. It is an honor to honor you.

Commissioner Burke, for really hearing SKIP families at that January Town Meeting and showing consistent care for the vulnerable children in our care as the changes swirl, for keeping your vow to "Keep SKIP afloat," and for being here tonight to help us honor Jim and his inspired career, we say a huge thanks.

To the Department of Health staff, for helping the programs we bring to our families evolve, thank you. You've listened, you've believed and you've made great strides this year. You've understood that while oversight is necessary, when it drowns a program, it becomes invalid.

Melinda and Kinda – the inda-scribables of Manatt, you defy gravity with all that you do: You are our guiding light, instantaneous translators of all I try to say in my many languages ...and, most critically, a muzzle for me when the best thing to say is nothing! You keep the interests of our families on loud speaker in state debates over shifting policies and steer us to the differentiating data that strengthens our message.

Bobby, the best neighbor in our world, thank you for another great year. Your help and your humor continue to provide a critical balance when the extremes of all we confront push too hard. Keep those emails coming!

## Coming Together in 2013:

---

Robert Greenzeig of Interstate Foods, in a year of exploding need, you raised the bar then exceeded it. So many more of our neediest families got to celebrate Thanksgiving because of you. Thank you! Driving nearly a ton of frozen birds down the West Side Highway has never been so much fun.

To Jonathan K. and our growing Junior Board, what a night you pulled off in support of SKIP last month! For all you did this year, from the Turkey Trot to the Friendraiser to combing your contacts to connect SKIP to potential supporters, a thousand thanks.

RXR Management—Anthony, Mitchell and the front desk team: From promoting the Turkey Trot despite the Hurricane to championing our Friendraiser, thank you for sharing our care for the children we serve. To our fellow tenants, especially oxo, the Department of Homeland Security, Johnson & Johnson and Tommy Hilfiger—thank you for engaging with us this year.

To the Yankees for taking so many of our families out to a ball game, thank you!

Alan St. Jon, you rock. Thank you for inviting us into the world of Moo Moo. To the Meo family, thank you for making SKIP part of such a great tribute to one who reflected the same type of caring that drives our work.

To the front office, especially Judy, Lisa, Tony, Anthony, and to the crack team of collators from scanning, we never thank you enough because our thanks to you are more than we could ever say.

Rob G., aka Inspector Gadget, is there anything you cannot do? Thank you for knowing it all and helping us cross the bridge to more integrated systems, linked communication and tech-driven efficiencies. Malia, is there anything you cannot find? ...for your ingenuity, your fun, your efficiency and your wicked sarcasm, I am so grateful. Jonathan M., for your eye, your talent, your zeal and your care, I salute you. To the majestic Jamie and our gifted Pierre—you are delicious! Thank you for the incredible fare you conjure for our Friendraiser each year.

Dr. Zellhof, for transforming a speck of an idea into a transformational approach to behavior management ...for accepting videography and agreeing to apply your great knowledge in a new way, children are now receiving highly personalized behavioral plans based on their natural setting. With success beyond anything anyone could have imagined, I thank you

# A Message from Margaret

---

for the expertise, flexibility and vision you've shared so generously in blazing this new trail.

To Phoebe and Alfred, you are forever a part of all we do. We will never forget and we will always be thankful for what you each gave to SKIP.

As you know, at SKIP we find answers, no matter what. The demand for our help and the results of our efforts continue to be too great to ever accept "no." In fact, when we hear it, we say "No way!" and find another path. But we do not do it alone. To all who support SKIP, work at SKIP, volunteer at SKIP and champion SKIP in any of the hundreds of ways you all do, you are the pieces that make life whole for the most vulnerable among us and I am so grateful.

As the financial pressures continue to mount in the face of the ongoing importance of our work, we have begun to take the first steps toward a funding model that relies more on corporate, individual, foundation and institutional giving. We must find more hearts and budgets that can be opened to support a life outside of hospitals and institutions for children who are medically fragile, developmentally disabled, seriously sick or chronically ill. The stakes are high: People with disabilities should not have to grovel for what they need. We must join hands to keep them whole lest we splinter pieces off our own humanity.

To Yves, Jonathan and Maya, thank you for keeping me whole so that I may continue to do my part.

Smoochies and thanks to you all,



Margaret Mikol  
Executive Director

# 2012 Annual Survey Results

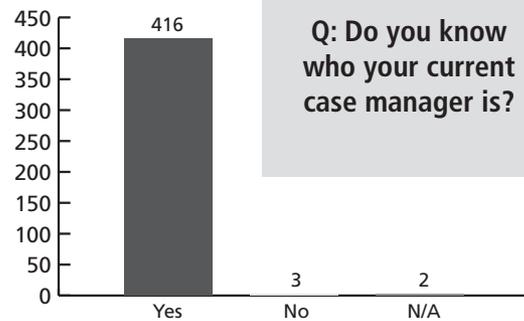
Each year, SKIP surveys families to measure satisfaction with the services we provide. It is so meaningful to see the large number who take the time to respond and the volume of people who make comments such as, "SKIP saved my life," or, "We wouldn't know what to do without you."

We use survey information to shape what we do: staying the course with things we are doing well and addressing areas for which our families

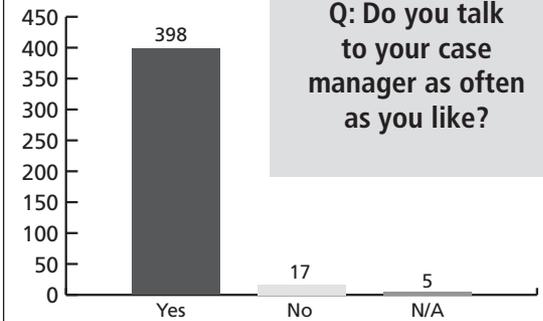
provide constructive feedback. Unfortunately, the only thing families would really like to see controlled is employee turnover in the case management staff. They aren't the only ones. Fortunately, they realize we have tried to compensate for this by creating a relatively small ratio of supervisors to case managers as there is greater longevity among the supervisors. We are really proud of the results and are pleased to share a snapshot of them here.



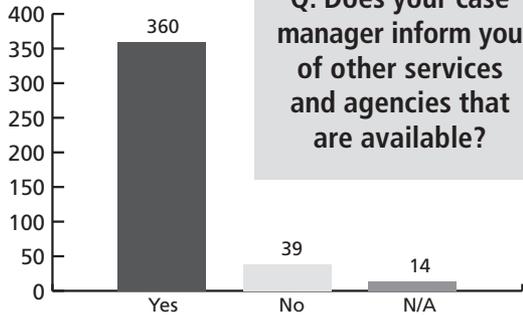
The results speak for themselves. It's a tricky world and we can't automatically remove wait-lists, placement, and resolve many consequences that emerge as the result of a shrinking budget but we work hard every day, never losing sight of who we're helping and why we press so hard for answers and results. Plainly, our families know it.



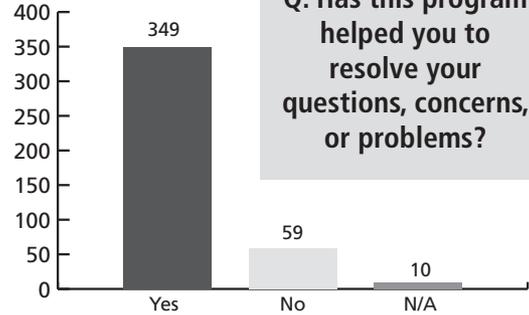
Overall the vast majority of the respondents know and are in frequent contact with their case managers.



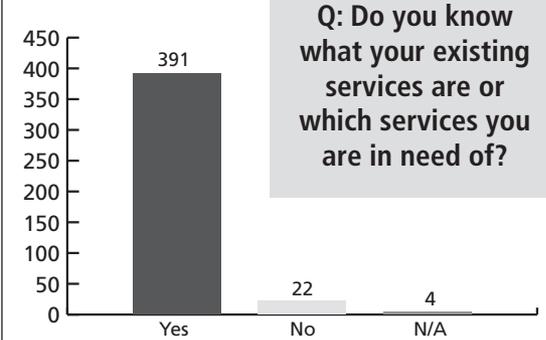
Overall the vast majority of the respondents are pleased with the frequency in which they speak with their case managers. We attribute this to our team's dedication to the programs and our increased internal training programs.



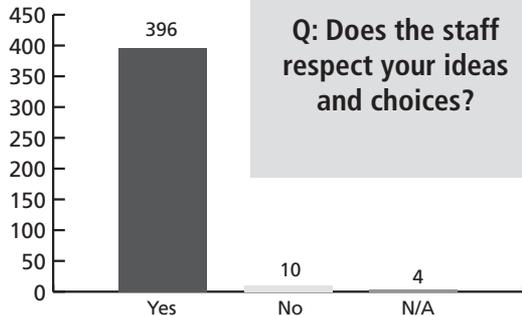
A good majority of the respondents stated their case managers informed them of other services and agencies. We will be reviewing adding additional information to the case manager trainings to improve on this communication.



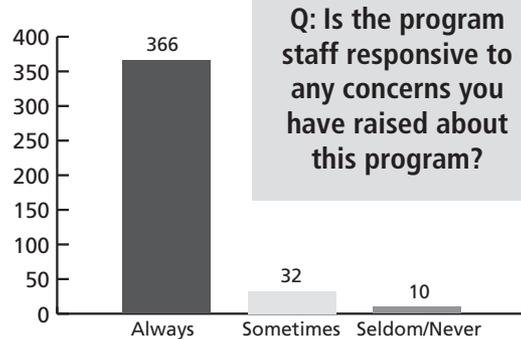
More than eight of 10 respondents say SKIP has helped them resolve questions, concerns and problems. It is critical to note that if all policy decisions were ours to make we would have 100% satisfaction. Sometimes the system takes time to work through. As a result, it's the length of time that has caused the most concern for our consumers.



Overall the vast majority of the respondents are aware of their existing services as well the services they may need. The case managers establish a good communication protocol with the clients and spend the time to educate them about their existing and potential services.



Overall the majority of the respondents felt the staff was respectful of their ideas and choices.



The strong majority of the respondents felt the staff was responsive to their concerns.

### Thank you SKIP of New York

*"Believe me when I say it's been a wild ride. It started when Alicia was six months old and the doctors told us all the bad news. I was overwhelmed ...hating life, disliking people extremely. Then this little, helpless, beautiful angel showed me how to love again.*

*"...My wife and I thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts ...for helping us take care of our most precious angel. ...There just is so much we count on with SKIP. We honestly need the services that SKIP helps us with each day. We will always be grateful to SKIP." – a SKIP Parent*

*SKIP of New York is grateful for  
our Foundation and Corporate Supporters*

---

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Congratulations Katie on receiving  
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We love you so much and are proud of all that  
you are doing for our autism families.

Mom and Dad

*Silver*



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---

Henry and Karen Myerberg

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*Dear Friend*

---

Vedder Price P.C. salutes  
SKIP of New York and Margaret Mikol

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---

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The SKIP of New York Junior Board  
salutes the case managers for their hard work to  
actualize SKIP's mission of bringing kids home  
to their families and engaging the support  
of their communities.



*Close Friend*

---

In celebration of everyone who  
puts the pieces together!

Yves, Jonathan, Margaret & Maya Mikol

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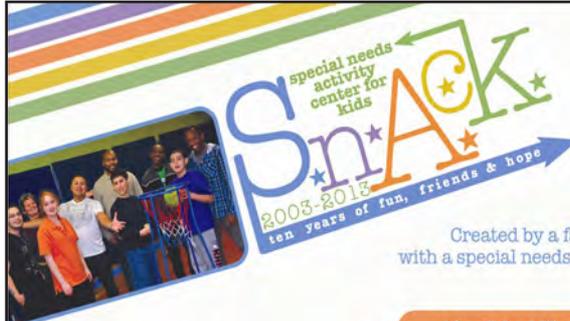
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**Marsha & Burt Henry**

Congratulations to SKIP's continued sensitivity and dedication to the needs of children facing life challenges and devastating illnesses. We are so proud of our daughter Marisa Altabet's involvement and commitment to this exceptional organization.



*Good Friend*

---

**Hannah & Paul Freilich**



*Good Friend*

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---

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Tamara Igel

---

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*and congratulate  
tonight's honorees*

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*Yord & Taylor*



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# Financials

In keeping with the careful fiscal stewardship that has kept SKIP strong since we launched in 1983, we continue to control costs and push toward greater efficiencies in all areas. However, this year marked a significant shift. As the state progressed with the budget tightening faced by all public entities, we had to adjust to many unforeseeable changes and for the first time since inception, we are running at a deficit. While the changes remain unpredictable, we are tailoring our funding models to work within this shifting environment as we continue to deliver the same high quality programming and service that are the hallmarks of SKIP of New York.

## Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2012 (with comparative totals for 2011)

	June 30, 2011	June 30, 2012
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,786,449	\$ 4,526,721
Due from governmental agencies	\$ 1,951,053	\$ 1,823,840
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$ 582,819	\$ 103,071
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 6,320,321</b>	<b>\$ 6,453,632</b>
Equipment and leasehold improvements, net of accumulated depreciation of \$737,487 and \$450,742, respectively	\$ 1,699,218	\$ 1,513,976
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 8,019,539</b>	<b>\$ 7,967,608</b>
	June 30, 2011	June 30, 2012
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 670,153</b>	<b>\$ 361,014</b>
Deferred rent payable	\$ 723,503	\$ 644,434
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 1,393,656</b>	<b>\$ 1,005,448</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 6,625,883</b>	<b>\$ 6,962,160</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 8,019,539</b>	<b>\$ 7,967,608</b>

**Statement of Activities**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2012**  
**(with comparative totals for 2011)**

	Year Ended	
	June 30, 2012	June 30, 2011
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS AND PROGRAM REVENUE</b>		
Program service fees	\$ 10,884,306	\$ 10,966,708
Government grants	\$ 230,712	\$ 228,699
Contributions	\$ 14,075	\$ 39,909
Special Event Revenue	\$ 214,596	\$ 243,857
Interest Income	\$ 17,965	\$ 17,302
Other	\$ 4,751	\$ 13,080
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS, PROGRAM REVENUES AND REVENUES FROM SPECIAL EVENTS</b>	<b>\$ 11,366,405</b>	<b>\$ 11,509,555</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program services	\$ 10,270,053	\$ 8,835,618
Management and general	\$ 1,085,563	\$ 1,184,624
Fundraising	\$ 347,066	\$ 478,554
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 11,702,682</b>	<b>\$ 10,498,796</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ (336,277)</b>	<b>\$ 1,010,759</b>
<b>NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 6,962,160</b>	<b>\$ 5,951,401</b>
<b>NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 6,625,883</b>	<b>\$ 6,962,160</b>

# My Part at SKIP: A Perspective



**By Mary Mulvey, Enrollment Coordinator**

After 17 productive and satisfying years at the Federal Reserve Bank where I was an automation officer managing the development and implementation of a portfolio of financial software applications, I decided to leave my secure, comfortable and interesting career to pursue what could only be called a vocation—to work with our most fragile and vulnerable children and their families. Once my social work studies were completed, I knocked on SKIP's door, Margaret opened, and what an experience it has been since!

What strikes me most about SKIP is the similarity between it and the world from which I came. Organizational elements including strong leadership, defined processes, clear organizational structure, accountability, business knowledge, and open lines of communication are critical factors that contribute to an organization's efficiency and viability—and these elements exist at SKIP. Importantly, in software development, even when you have those elements, if you cannot develop, maintain and nurture relationships with all of your stakeholders, it is likely that you will fail or, at the very least, an inferior product will be delivered. This is even more true in the Human Services domain. What I have observed and experienced at SKIP is the careful attention paid to relationships, where the children and the families that SKIP serves are at the core of these relationships and from which all work flows.

As an enrollment coordinator, I have spoken with many families that are seeking information and/or services for their children. All of these parents embrace their parental responsibilities; they love their children and they simply want what we all want for our kids: a path taking them forward. It saddens me when I have to relay the message: "Yes your child is eligible for services but we have an extensive wait list... "

Yet, because relationships matter at SKIP and because families are at the center of what SKIP does, the conversation does not end there. We spend time listening to these parents, understanding the needs of and goals for their children, explaining services, offering advice on how to move forward—anything to let them know that they are cared about, that they are not alone. The relationship we build with our families does not start once a family is formally enrolled. Rather, it begins to develop from the first moment of contact. It is this relationship, supported by strong organizational elements, that is the foundation of all work at SKIP. Yes, these organizational elements are critical but we must never underestimate the power of relationships in this work that we do – because that is where the hope lives.

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