



THE ENCORE Connection

From Our Heart To Yours

Heart to Heart Awards Are Presented at Encore's Annual Spring Benefit

The Penthouse Floor of Mutual of America, with its spectacular views of Park Avenue, provided the lovely setting for Encore's Annual Heart to Heart Awards Presentation and Benefit on May 14. These awards are given to acknowledge the work of individuals, groups and corporations who have made contributions to improve New York City and its communities, especially the Times Square/Theater community. This year's recipients were Donnelly Mechanical, with Tom Krol, Vice President of Business Development, accepting the award; and the Theatrical Teamsters, Local 817, with Frank Connolly, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer accepting the award on the union's behalf. The formal program began with greetings and welcoming remarks from Benefit Co-chairs George and Christine Stonbely, Encore's Board President William K. Flynn, and Senior Regional Vice President at Mutual of America Tyrone Gollatt. The Reverend John Duffell, Administrator of Blessed Sacrament Church in Manhattan, provided an inspiring invocation, and Joseph Benincasa, President and CEO of The Actors Fund served as the gracious Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Founded in 1989, **Donnelly Mechanical** is the leading integrated HVAC and energy service company in the metropolitan area. Donnelly Mechanical has developed a reputation for maximizing energy efficiency and cost savings for their customers using its extensive knowledge of the industry's leading sustainability technology and incentive programs. Donnelly Mechanical customers align themselves with more than 1,700 companies who value Donnelly's hallmark of direct owner access at every level. Donnelly's customized maintenance and service

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Ralph DiRuggiero, Senior Vice President, Property Management at Paramount Group, Inc. (on right) presents the 2015 Heart to Heart Award to Tom Krol, Vice President of Business Development who accepted the award on behalf of Donnelly Mechanical.



James Claffey, Jr., President of Local One, Theatrical Stage Employees, I.A.T.S.E. (on right) presents the Heart to Heart Award to Frank Connolly, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer of the Theatrical Teamsters, Local 817, I.B.T. who accepted the award on behalf of the Teamsters.

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Executive Director
Sr. Elizabeth Hasselt

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Encore Community Services is to provide care and service to the elderly of the Clinton/Times Square/Midtown communities, and to any elderly person who comes to us; to assist those who are vulnerable and frail, poor and homeless, homebound and lonely, frequently desperate, most often ignored; to help them with their daily needs that they might live as independently as possible, with dignity and decency, in a non-institutional manner, in a safe and caring environment . . .

(Board of Directors, 1982)



The Encore Connection is a publication of Encore Community Services, a nonprofit, nonsectarian agency serving the needs of the elderly. Encore provides in-home and congregate meals, recreational, educational and social activities, shopping and escort services, benefit and entitlement counseling, crisis intervention, mental health services, friendly visiting, weekend meals and housing for the homeless and low-income seniors. These services are provided at the Encore 49 Residence, 220 West 49th Street, the Encore Senior Center, located at St. Malachy's, The Actors' Chapel, 239 West 49th Street, and the Encore West Residence, 755 Tenth Ave., between 51st and 52nd Streets.

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Editor/Director of Development

Gina Curran



The mailing of *The Encore Connection* was underwritten by a locally based accounting firm. Encore extends its gratitude for its generosity. If your firm would like to underwrite one of Encore's mailings, please contact Gina Curran at (646) 726-4299, ext. 106. ♥

From the Desk of . . .



Sr. Elizabeth Hasselt
Executive Director

On this beautiful June day, all here at Encore are delighted that winter with its snow and ice is gone...and so far we are facing a mild spring! Here at Encore we also reflect on our recent Heart to Heart Awards Benefit which was held, as most of our readers know, on May 14 at Mutual of America, our most generous supporter of this Annual Event, who provides the wonderful venue and services. Each and every time, Encore has come to Mutual of America for this event, we are in awe of the setting and the support provided to Encore.

As all of our readers know, this Heart to Heart Award is presented by Encore to acknowledge and celebrate the work of individuals, groups and businesses who have made contributions to improve our community, especially in the Times Square/Theater/Westside/Clinton communities. Encore was delighted once again to welcome our Honorees, so deserving of Encore's Award. As you read the coverage in this issue of the "Encore Connection," I hope you get the sense of celebration from the "story" and the photographs.

At this celebratory event, Encore happily and publicly acknowledged the achievements of our Honorees: Donnelly Mechanical, represented by Tom Krol, Vice-President, Business Development, and the Theatrical Teamsters, Local 817, I.B.T., represented by Frank Connolly, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer. We remain ever so grateful to George and Christine Stonbely, Encore's Benefit Co-Chairs, who continue to provide support and assistance in multiple ways. Our longtime friend, Rev. John Duffell, Administrator of Blessed Sacrament Church in Manhattan, provided an invocation, and Joseph Benincasa, President and CEO of The Actors Fund served as our Master of Ceremonies for the evening. We salute the generosity of all who helped to make this annual event, one of the "best ever!"

Here at Encore, we are always looking forward...now to spring and summer, while at the same time looking back to the winter "past." And as we reflect on this winter, we do so with much gratitude to Encore's loyal and competent employees, especially those involved with preparing and delivering hot meals or frozen meals to our homebound seniors. There were some winter days when delivering meals to the homebound was a "challenge" to say the least. Encore now has three vans that are loaded with meals and deliverers for these seniors, who are dependent on Encore...and we are proud to say that we never missed a day!

And speaking of delivering meals to the homebound with our three vans, Encore could not be more delighted when Thomas O'Donnell, President of the Theatrical Teamsters, Local 817 came to the podium to announce that a most generous contribution would be made to enable Encore to purchase another much needed van!

I am quite sure that all of our readers of "The Encore Connection" are looking forward to the summer months, when the pace of daily life seems to slow down. And with that in mind, we would like to leave our readers with two questions to contemplate. It has been said that these questions were asked by Benjamin Franklin daily, first thing in the morning and before going to sleep: "What good shall I do today? What good have I done today?"...and so, when we finally come to understand this, we act on it, no matter how small that act is...and believe it or not, it will take you where you need to go!

And finally, Encore sends gratitude to all of our readers for your generosity, support and caring. All here at Encore know that we simply could not "do what we do" without all of you! Thank you...and have a safe and wonderful summer!

GOOD NEWS AND RECENT HAPPENINGS

Encore Senior Center Hosts A Mother's Day Celebration

Everyone knows how special mothers are in a person's life, so it's no wonder Mother's Day was established as an official national holiday, first declared so in the state of West Virginia in 1910, with the remaining states following quickly. Well, Encore wanted to acknowledge these special ladies, too. On May 13, the Center hosted a celebratory party with plenty of refreshments, fun and music by Juan Ortega where mothers and grandmothers alike danced and mamboed the afternoon away. Readers of *The Encore Connection* may not know that Mother's Day is the third largest holiday in the United States for sending cards, surpassed only by Christmas and Valentine's Day. In fact, approximately \$68 million is spent on greeting cards and \$2.6 billion on flowers... and wouldn't you agree that mothers are worth every single penny? Our thanks to St. Francis Food Pantries and Shelters and Interpublic Group (IPG) for sponsoring this event for all our Encore mothers and grandmothers!



Mothers and Grandmothers enjoyed dancing to the tunes of Juan Ortega at the Mother's Day Celebration on May 13th.

How Sweet It Is! Senior Center Receives A Donation of A New Piano



What a difference a finely tuned piano makes! When a piano was as old as the one at the Encore Senior Center, with dead keys and rusted strings, well, songs didn't sound very pleasing to the ear. That's how it's been for quite some time at the Senior Center, but not anymore! Thanks to the generosity of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and Executive Director Jackie Vanderbeck DiSalvo of Sing For Your Seniors, the Center now has a beautiful and fine-tuned piano, donated through the organization's Piano Placement Project. Sing For Your Seniors is a nonprofit organization that brings live performances to seniors who are unable to attend the theater because of frailty or economic hardships. Starting in 2005 as a one-person a cappella hour at the Village Adult Day Center, Sing For Your Seniors now boasts 150 volunteer singers and 20 pianists who have given hundreds of performances, bringing the enjoyment of live music to senior centers, hospitals and health care facilities in the New York area and beyond. Encore and our seniors are most grateful for this beautiful piano, and we say thank you to the many talented artists who give the gift of music with each stirring and heartfelt performance!



You can tell by the smiles of Staff and Senior Center members that they are very grateful for the new piano donated by Sing For Your Seniors and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

Monitor Your Blood Pressure. It Could Save Your Life!

There's a reason high blood pressure is often called the silent killer. It often goes undetected, offering no warning signs or symptoms. This is why it is very important to have your blood pressure checked on a regular basis. Encore is grateful to our community partners, the Ryan/Chelsea-Clinton Community Health Center and ESCO Pharmacy, for providing blood pressure screenings each week at the Senior Center to help seniors stay on top of this potential killer. Health care professionals also recommend eating a healthy diet of fruits and vegetables, exercising, shedding a few pounds, reducing salt and cutting down on caffeine as ways to lower blood pressure.



Nurse Natalie Reyes takes the blood pressure of Encore senior Stanley Rozycki.

❶ *Encore Board Member Julius Lang and Secretary of Encore's Board Lori Raimondo.*

❷ *Donnelly Mechanical representatives, from left to right, John Fallon, Joe DiPrisco, Ellen Johnson, Heart to Heart Honoree Tom Krol, Sean McEntee, Dennis Fallon, Dino Mangione and Tiziano Sartori.*

❸ *From left to right, Benefit Co-chair George Stonbely, Executive Director of Inside Broadway, Michael Presser, Benefit Co-chair Christine Stonbely and President and C.E.O. of The Actors' Fund Joseph Benincasa.*

❹ *2015 Heart to Heart Honoree Frank Connolly Jr. with his wife, Mara, and adorable sons Cameron, on left and Trey.*

...Heart to Heart Awards *(continued from page 1)*

agreements are tailored to each company's unique needs. They are specifically designed to ensure peak operating efficiency, minimize equipment downtime and eliminate the need for repeat visits. The firm's expert technicians and senior-level staff with LEED-accreditation from the U.S. Green Building Council provide reliable and consistent service around the clock.

What sets Donnelly Mechanical apart? Donnelly values both customers and employees and consistently performs with integrity and innovation. That's the Donnelly difference!

Donnelly Mechanical is also a staunch supporter of many neighborhood organizations. Recently, Tom Krol, Vice President of Business Development, spearheaded a project to upgrade the kitchen in Encore's Senior Center, by installing a new commercial convection oven, which also included extending the exhaust hood and adding a brand new fire protection system. This extensive renovation and new oven have made the heavy workload of cooking 1,000 congregate and home delivered meals each day much more manageable for the kitchen staff. They couldn't be more grateful!

Encore was delighted to have the opportunity to publicly thank Donnelly Mechanical for making these much needed improvements to its kitchen and to present a most-deserved Heart to Heart award to Tom Krol for his efforts. Encore would be remiss if it did not also extend its gratitude to Daniel Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer of the company. Presenting the award to Mr. Krol was Ralph DiRuggiero, Senior Vice President, Property Management at Paramount Group, Inc. and last year's Heart to Heart honoree.

The **Theatrical Teamsters, Local 817, I.B.T.** was chartered in 1926 as a union solely dedicated to serving the entertainment industry in the New York Metropolitan area. Since then, its membership has quadrupled. Today, Local 817 members work as drivers, helpers, loaders, casting directors and commercial location managers in the theater, orchestral, commercial, live event, television and feature film industries. Local 817 offers health and pension benefits that are of the highest standard to its members in not just the Teamsters, but in the larger entertainment community. Local 817's collectively-bargained Scholarship Fund provides the children of its members with tuition, and room and board to any accredited university or college in the United States.

Local 817 is credited as one of the driving forces that led to the revitalization of the City's film industry in the late 1960's and the creation of the Mayor's Office of Film, Theater and Broadcasting. In addition, Local 817 was also instrumental in the revitalization of the Astoria Studio and the formation of the Museum of the Moving Image. Collaboration with what is now the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment resulted in the creation of the "Made in NY" Scholarship Fund, which was

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made possible by a generous donation from the Local. Since 2008, the “Made in NY” Scholarship Fund has awarded scholarships to outstanding students who attend the New York City College of Technology and who are pursuing a baccalaureate degree in the Entertainment Technology field.

Presenting the award to Frank Connolly, Jr., who accepted the award on the union’s behalf, was James Claffey, Jr., President of Local One, the Theatrical Stage Employees, I.A.T.S.E. President of Local 817, Thomas J. O’Donnell, then approached the podium with a surprise announcement that the Teamsters would purchase a van for Encore’s Home Delivered Meals Program. A huge round of applause followed!

Topping off the formal program was a performance by Encore Board member and Actor, Joe Sirola, singing a medley from *My Fair Lady*, including “With a Little Bit of Luck” and “Get Me to the Church on Time.” At eighty-six years “young,” Joe is an inspiration to all and a blessing to Encore!

This year’s benefit, once again, featured a “Live Auction,” raising much needed funding for Encore’s Home Delivered Meals Program. As the evening’s auctioneer, Herb Mauthner of Mountain Auctioneers enthusiastically roused the guests to bid on the assorted prize lots.

Encore extends its appreciation to our many benefactors who contributed auction prizes, and to Anthony Caruso and Harry Coghlan of Clear Channel Spectacolor for providing ad space on its Digital HD LED screen on in Broadway. Benefactors who contributed \$500 will have their names or a message of their choice appear on the digital display screen during the month of July.

Capping off the evening was our always popular raffle of assorted theater tickets to Broadway shows and gift certificates for dinners for two. Encore is most grateful to Philip Smith, Chairman and Co-CEO of The Shubert Organization for donating theater tickets to several popular shows and to Dennis Riese of National Restaurants Management, Peter Fitzpatrick of Allied Management and Pasquale Marino of DaMarino Restaurant for donating an assortment of gift certificates to its restaurant establishments. Encore also thanks all the other restaurants and benefactors who contributed prizes and gift certificates for our auction and raffle.

Encore also wishes to thank our Heart to Heart honorees, our Benefit Chairpersons, George and Christine Stonbely, all our program participants and guests. Our thanks are extended to Taryn Lubin of Mutual of America who works “behind the scenes” ensuring that the benefit runs smoothly. We are especially grateful to our generous benefactor, Mr. Thomas Moran, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Mutual of America for hosting the Heart to Heart Benefit and for making the evening a memorable occasion for all.

Photo captions

⑤ Ellen Johnson, Director of Marketing at Donnelly Mechanical, and President of Encore’s Board of Directors, William K. Flynn.

⑥ Tyrone Gollatt, Senior Regional Vice President of Mutual of America, welcomes guests to the Heart to Heart Benefit.

⑦ From left to right, Henry Holden, Chairman Emeritus of Mutual of America William J. Flynn and his grandson James Welsh.

⑧ Rev. Michael Crimmins and Encore staff member Sr. Peggy McGill join in the fun during the auctioning of tickets to a Yankees vs. White Sox Game.

⑨ Sr. Elizabeth Hasselt and Sr. Lillian McNamara with long-time Local one supporters, from left, Secretary Robert Score, Treasurer Robert McDonough and Business Manager Ed McMahan.

Photos: Mike Pollio



BULLETIN BOARD NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

October 24, 2015 is a Date to Remember

If you're like many New Yorkers who love street fairs, then circle Saturday, October 24 on your calendar and come join the fun at this year's 41st Annual Americana Jazz Festival. Vendors will line 52nd Street, from Seventh Avenue to Fifth Avenue, selling a variety of clothing, jewelry and delicious food for you to enjoy from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Encore is the official sponsor of this street fair which helps raise money for Encore's many fine programs. It's a great way to spend a leisurely Saturday afternoon, so come browse, eat and join in the fun. Don't forget to drop by Encore's booth to say hello.

A Good Deed Can Help an Encore Senior

Many of our seniors do not own burial plots and are too poor to purchase one. Your family may have purchased a plot years ago which it may no longer need. Please consider deeding a burial plot to Encore. If you would like to donate a plot or would like to make a monetary gift for burials or cremations, please call Sr. Peggy at 646-726-4299, ext. 105. Thank you.



Encore Community Services

Located at St. Malachy's, The Actors' Chapel
239 West 49th Street
New York, New York 10019-7493

"Broadway's Longest Running Act of Loving Care"