



Celebrating the people and programs

@MAY

News from May Institute, a national nonprofit provider of behavioral healthcare, education, and rehabilitative services

Dr. Christian Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

May Institute's reputation for unparalleled commitment to excellence can be credited, in large part, to the steadfast leadership and dedication of President and CEO **Walter P. Christian, Ph.D., ABPP.**

This fall, the *Boston Business Journal* selected Dr. Christian (pictured right) as the recipient of its prestigious "Champions in Health Care" 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes the "best of the best" among the Commonwealth's healthcare community. Honorees



"exemplify an enduring commitment to excellence in advancing the quality of healthcare."

Dr. Christian accepted his award at a celebratory breakfast in Boston which was attended by hundreds of guests from the state's business and healthcare communities. He was honored for his three decades of leadership at May Institute, during which time the organization has

earned an international reputation for providing outstanding services to children and adults with special needs. An ardent defender of the rights of individuals with disabilities, Dr. Christian played a crucial role in deinstitutionalization in Massachusetts and

throughout the country.

"For a vision to become reality, you need an extraordinary team," says Dr. Christian. "It is a tremendous privilege to work with the finest in our field. I share this honor with our staff and with the countless families who are so much a part of May Institute's legacy. They are the real champions behind the achievements recognized by this award." ☺

Rodman Ride for Kids Raises \$145,653

Hurricane Ike, a national recession, and a fundraising goal that was more than double that of last year did not discourage 13 teams, 40 riders, and hundreds of employees, board members, and friends



May Institute corporate staff member Carolyn Reynolds happily completes her 25-mile ride.

of May Institute from "going for the gold" during last fall's Rodman Ride for Kids. Together, they overcame every challenge

continued on page 6

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



We are living through a time of uncertainty, volatility, and change.

For three decades, I have been privileged to bear witness to the generosity of others towards May Institute. Given the climate in our country today, however, I am particularly moved by the abundance of generosity and kindness we are experiencing.

This issue of @May is filled with stories of individuals, families, and organizations who have shared their time, talent, and treasure with us. Through their contributions, they are making May Institute stronger—fortifying our foundation, expanding our reach, and enriching the lives of the individuals we serve and the staff who serve them.

We don't have to look far to find examples of generosity. Seven of our staff, representing programs from around the country, were recently honored by our board of trustees for exemplifying our ideals of service and professionalism. Kathi Barry, a former trustee award winner, is highlighted in these pages for her creativity and diligence in securing tens of thousands of dollars of in-kind donations to support our staff and students. In Georgia, behavior therapist Jade Lewis, M.Ed., BCABA, was named a 2008 Hero for Autism for the impact she is making in the lives of the children and families she serves.

Dozens of our staff, friends, and supporters biked on our behalf during our second year as a beneficiary of the Rodman Ride for Kids. Thanks to the generosity of our corporate sponsors and hundreds of donors, we met our goal of \$125,000, resulting in an additional 15% match from Don Rodman, Ride president. He has become a true friend of May Institute.

Our relationships with a wide range of business partners have continued to strengthen over the years—so much so that we recently welcomed dozens of individuals to our first-ever vendor appreciation breakfast. We honored Stephen H. Peck, from Stephen H. Peck & Associates, with our 2008 Business in Philanthropy award for his strong commitment and philanthropic support to May Institute.

Across the country, plans are underway for the launch of the new Pediatric Specialty Center in San Jose, Calif. We are working closely with our community partners, Silicon Valley Children's Hospital Foundation, Good Samaritan Hospital, and the Valley Foundation to open the doors of the Center and welcome families eager for services. As this newsletter goes to press, an Open House celebration is days away. The event will honor Cadence Design Systems, Inc., the Center's corporate supporter, for the more than one million dollars raised by Cadence and over 170 Silicon Valley businesses and corporations for the Center's capital needs.

The National Autism Center is also benefiting from philanthropic support, most recently through a generous donation from Cisco. The company chose autism as the focus of a national conference it held for senior managers, and selected the National Autism Center as its partner organization.

These are just a few examples of the exceptional and often quiet generosity we experience every day. We are blessed with a community of friends and supporters who make the journey with us each day, and grateful beyond measure for that friendship and support.

Warm regards,

Walter P. Christian, Ph.D., ABPP

President and CEO

PARTNERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

For decades, May Institute has been committed to expanding its mission by building relationships and developing partnerships. Joining forces with hospitals, universities, school districts, and other organizations and agencies, we have greatly increased the variety and quality of services we provide to thousands of individuals across the country.

“We don’t just serve individuals,” explains **Dennis Russo**, Ph.D., ABPP, Chief Clinical Officer of May Institute. “We seek to improve the systems through which those individuals receive the care they need. By sharing capabilities, resources, and expertise with other organizations, May Institute has put together incredibly sophisticated and unique programs.”

degrees. Through our affiliation with the Northeastern University Behavior Analysis Program, for example, over 740 students have received training.

“Students, patients, and families need to have programs and services where they live and work,” Russo continues. “When we partner with other organizations, we are able to bring very specialized services to the point of need.”



Children playing at the Fernandes Center for Children & Families (FCCF) in Fall River, Mass.

The Fernandes Center for Children & Families (FCCF) in Fall River, Mass., is an example of the Institute’s partnership with a hospital that created a pediatric center to provide community-based medical and behavioral care to a needy community. The Institute is establishing a similar center for children with autism and their families in California’s Silicon Valley. (See related article on page 9.)

May Institute has also partnered with a number of universities, providing internship opportunities and helping hundreds of students earn master’s

In addition, the Institute provides Positive Behavior Support (PBS) services to schools throughout the Northeast that help educators improve the behavioral climate and enhance academic performance in their schools. This includes a contract with the state of

Vermont to serve school districts across that state.

“Our cooperative spirit is exceptional within our industry,” says Russo. “We believe in creating enduring partnerships with a host of other organizations, bringing ‘us’ and ‘them’ together for the benefit of the individuals we serve.”

May Institute has relationships with more than 55 universities, hospitals, and human service agencies worldwide. For a complete list of our partner organizations, visit www.mayinstitute.org.

Dr. Russo Named ABAI Fellow

Chief Clinical Officer **Dennis C. Russo**, Ph.D., ABPP (pictured below), was named a 2008 Fellow of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI). Dr. Russo’s distinction follows the selection of May Institute’s President and CEO **Walter P. Christian**, Ph.D., ABPP, as a 2007 ABAI Fellow. May Institute is now the first nonprofit human services organization in the country to have two such renowned experts on staff in the field of applied behavior analysis.



The ABAI Fellows designation recognizes the most outstanding contributors to the field of behavior analysis in areas including research, scholarship, professional practice, teaching, administration, and service. “The Committee based its recommendation on your sustained commitment to excellence in the field of behavior analysis,” wrote M. Jackson Marr, Ph.D., Chair of the Fellows Selection Committee, in notifying Dr. Russo of the honor.

“I am very pleased and humbled to receive this honor,” said Dr. Russo. “To be able to play a role in helping meet the critical need for evidence-based treatment in the area of disabilities is enormously rewarding on both a personal and professional level.”

Kids with Brain Injury Shine at Special Olympics Event

Dreams came true for hundreds of football fans with intellectual disabilities at the first annual “Punt, Pass & Kick” Event in Taunton, Mass., this fall. Among them were students from the May Center for Education and Neurorehabilitation in Brockton, Mass., our school for children and adolescents with brain injury.

The event was sponsored by Special Olympics of Massachusetts (SOMA) and Taunton “Cubs” Youth Football and Cheerleading, Inc. It brought together coaches and football players to help participants work on their skills, and included a friendly, integrated competition between players and students. The day also featured a cheerleading clinic and barbeque lunch, courtesy of the Taunton Cubs’ coaches and parents.



Erica (right), a Brockton May Center student, poses with fellow cheerleader Ali, daughter of May Center staff Tulissa Clemon.

“Most of our students have never had the opportunity to get on a real field and play their favorite sport—football,” says **Jennifer M. Mento**, MSPT, Director of



Will (right), a Brockton May Center student, receives a trophy from Karl Anderson of the Taunton Cubs. Anderson was one of the key organizers in bringing SOMA to Taunton.

Allied Health Services for the May Center.

“It was an amazing day that gave our kids a chance to interact with others their age,” says **Tulissa Clemon**, Transitional Education Specialist for the May Center and parent of two Taunton Cubs team members.

The Center has been involved with Special Olympics since 2001, participating in its soccer, basketball, track and field, bowling, and softball programs. The popular football clinic is expected to return next year.

“We hope some day Special Olympics athletes from all over Massachusetts—and all over the nation and beyond—will be able to practice and play flag football just like they now play any of the other 26 sports that we currently offer,” says Jay O’Brien, SOMA’s South Section Director.

The May Center for Education and Neurorehabilitation provides full-day, year-round innovative educational services for children and adolescents ages 5 to 22 with brain injury. 🍎

A Celebration of Community

Giving thanks for life’s blessings is one hallmark of the holiday spirit. In Fall River, Mass., May Institute’s Towne House Clubhouse, a community of adults living with mental illness, did just that over a pre-Thanksgiving dinner: they graciously thanked area residents for accepting and supporting their efforts to overcome the stigma of mental illness, reintegrate into society, and have successful lives.

“*All of us leave with a special sense of each other and our community and with a thankfulness for each other and the gifts that friendship can bring.*”

Stephen D. Merrill, M.S., LICSW
Director of Programming, May Institute
Behavioral Services, Southeastern Mass.

Local Fall River politicians and state representatives joined Clubhouse members in serving Thanksgiving dinner to family, friends, and the community. Area businesses donated the food and fixings. More than 300 Fall River residents attended the annual celebration of appreciation—truly a community effort in the spirit of Thanksgiving. A story about the gathering was published in the Thanksgiving day issue of the *Fall River Herald News*.

May Institute’s Towne House Clubhouse is an advocate for employment, community integration, and educational and recreational activities for Fall River residents living with mental illness. 🍎

Philanthropy Event Honors Esteemed Supporters Stephen Peck Receives Business in Philanthropy Award

May Institute opened its doors on a cold December morning to thank 33 business partners at the first-ever Vendor Appreciation and Networking Breakfast. Members of the business community from across Massachusetts joined us in Randolph to celebrate valuable partnerships that have deepened over the years. Attendees were invited to enjoy breakfast, tour the May Center for Child Development, our state-of-the-art school for children with autism spectrum disorders, and learn more about the organization and the individuals we serve.

generous supporter of the National Autism Center, as well as a two-time corporate sponsor of the Rodman Ride for Kids.

Paul Pawlowski, of Reservoir Avenue Trust, was also honored with a commemorative photo collage highlighting his participation in the 2008 Ride for Kids. Pawlowski, a corporate sponsor for the event, rode 25 miles. "I had the chance to ride alongside Paul," said May Institute's Chief of Business Development, **Heidi Howard, M.P.A.** "To see one of our partners so



Stephen H. Peck (left) receives the 2008 "Business in Philanthropy Award" from Chief Clinical Officer Dennis Russo, Ph.D., ABPP.

Dennis C. Russo, Ph.D., ABPP, Chief Clinical Officer, presented Stephen H. Peck, from Stephen H. Peck & Associates, with the first annual *Business in Philanthropy Award*. This honor recognizes an esteemed business partner who demonstrates exemplary leadership and a strong commitment to May Institute. A long-time partner of the organization, Stephen H. Peck & Associates/UBS is the Institute's employee benefits insurance broker. Peck is also a

vested in and excited for our involvement in this fundraising event was truly inspiring."

The goal of the gathering was to show our appreciation to the people and businesses with whom we work. "Our business partners are an important part of the May Institute family," said Russo. "They have grown with us over the years. Without them, we could not continue to do what we do." ●

TRUSTEES' FUND AWARD WINNERS

Seven May Institute employees were recently honored with the 2008 Trustees' Fund Awards. Funded by board members, these awards recognize individuals who exemplify the Institute's ideals of service and professionalism.

The following award winners were presented with a plaque and a monetary gift by Board Chairman **Jory Berkwits** and President and CEO **Walter P. Christian, Ph.D., ABPP**.



Colleen Bennett, residential scheduling coordinator at the May Center for Education and Neurorehabilitation in Brockton, Mass.



Stephanie Fillers, B.A., BCABA, educational case manager at the May Center for Child Development in Randolph, Mass.



Nancy Gajee, M.A., psychology post-internship fellow at May Institute Behavioral Health Services in Walpole and Boston, Mass.



Jessica Hamill, B.A., senior teacher at the May Center for Child Development in Woburn, Mass.



Rutha McClain, direct care behavior assistant for child and adult residential services in Orange Park, Fla.



Elizabeth McTiernan, B.A., behavior specialist for school and home-based behavioral services in Atlanta, Ga.



Jessica Raders, B.A., classroom teacher at The Bay School in Santa Cruz, Calif.



Rodman Ride... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and raised a record \$145,653 for our children's services in New England.

"Although we had to postpone the ride that was scheduled for September 27th because of Hurricane Ike, May staff, board members, sponsors, and many friends and supporters made October 4th a day to remember," said **Heidi Howard**, M.P.A., Chief of Business Development.

"As an added bonus, Don Rodman, Rodman Ride President, matched 15% of every dollar we raised," Howard continued. "Thanks to Don's generosity, we received an additional \$18,998. One hundred percent of all funds raised will go towards our programs and services."

The Rodman Ride for Kids is one of the country's largest single-day bike events benefiting children and families. Since 1991, it has raised over \$37 million for child-related social service agencies in Massachusetts. This was our second year as a beneficiary organization.

Joining dozens of May Institute staff riders were board members **Jory Berkwitz**, Chairman, (and his son Ethan), **Neal Todrys** and his team, **Steve Young**, and **Robert Yelton**. Randolph May Center parent Jim Wright joined in the fun, as did Woburn May Center parent Paul Quirnbach, who rode with son Jeffrey and daughter Jennifer. Jeffrey—May Institute's only rider with autism—was cheered on by a proud family and crowds of admirers at the finish line!

May Institute business partner Paul Pawlowski was a rider *and* a sponsor. Our other sponsors, who provided nearly \$30,000 in donations, were: Stephen H. Peck & Associates/UBS; Merrill Lynch; Todson, Inc.; Krokidas & Bluestein, LLC; AL-CA Realty; Goulston and Storrs; MFS Mutual Funds; BuyTheCase, LLC; Cummings Properties; Jackson Lewis LLP; Reservoir Avenue Trust; and 596 Summer Street LLC.

Congratulations and thanks to all! 🍷

4 notable gifts

We are truly grateful to the corporations, foundations, and agencies that support May Institute's vital services through their grants and donations. Recent major supporters include:

1.

The Valley Foundation in Los Gatos, Calif., approved two grants for the new Pediatric Specialty Center. A \$100,000 gift will primarily underwrite the Center's diagnostic and treatment services for lower income households. A second \$100,000 challenge grant will help further diversify financial support for the Center.

2.

Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose, Calif., made a major capital gift to the Pediatric Specialty Center through a donation of space worth \$112,725.

3.

The Fifth Generation Fund of the Bradley-Turner Foundation awarded May Institute's Southeast Regional Autism Center in Georgia a \$64,088 grant. This grant will support the *Pathways* parent educational series and social skills training groups for individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

4.

In addition to the matching \$18,998 gift from the Rodman Ride for Kids, which resulted in a total of \$145,653 raised for our children's programs and services (see cover story), May Institute received a gift of \$3,500 from Don Rodman on behalf of his Annual Holiday Celebration for Kids. The donation was earmarked specifically for "necessities to help make the holiday season brighter for at-risk kids and their families."

Teaming up for kids!



*Riders back l-r: Jessica Hamill, Laura Carmellini, Donna Manzi, Paul Pawlowski, Ed Ahern, Meghan Armstrong, Hilary Collins, Stefanie Fillers, Shawn Healy, Latasha Moses, Elizabeth Eleftherakis, Rosemary Lambert, Nancy DeFilippis, and Susan Wilczynski
Riders front l-r: Amanda Sitomer, Dana DeIngenis, Heidi Howard, Mike Lydon, and Christina Bellas*

[See page 11 to learn about grants and gifts to the National Autism Center.]



l-r: Ethan Berkwits and Jory Berkwits (Chairman of May Institute's Board of Trustees)



l-r: Board members Steve Young and Robert Yelton



Emily Callahan, May Institute pre-doctoral intern



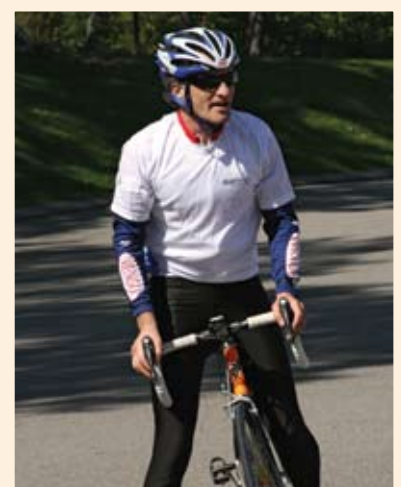
Team Woburn cheerleaders included May employees Dan Davis and Emily Kelloway (far left).



Paul Quirnbach, who rode with son Jeffrey and daughter Jennifer. Jeff's twin brother Will (left) cheered them on.



Jim Wright, parent of May Center student



Neal Todrys, Board member

ATLANTA OFFERS AUTISM SERVICES FOR FAMILIES

Because an autism diagnosis impacts the entire family, our Atlanta office is offering a variety of new programs to meet each family member's needs:

- The *Pathways* parent educational series helps parents understand an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis and treatment options. It also addresses developmental and behavioral concerns in the home. The series is offered through an affiliation with the National Autism Center.
- *My Time to Shine* sibling workshops are designed to help children of different ages understand and support their brothers and sisters with autism and other developmental disabilities. *My Time to Shine* highlights the strengths of all children and encourages them to explore their ability to be positive role models. The workshops also help siblings learn to interact with and enjoy one another.



- *Positive Steps for Kids* is a program for children with autism and other special needs who have difficulty understanding social cues and developing friendships. The program's goal is to teach children the social skills they need to make new friends and have successful community experiences.

Groups will meet at the Atlanta office. For more information, contact Angela Hornsby at 770.956.8511, ext. 221. 🍷

Consultation Services “Second to None”

May Institute's home-based and school consultation services in Atlanta, Ga., and those provided by the Southeast Regional Autism Center (SERAC) in Columbus, Ga., have received a three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

To earn this national distinction, the programs underwent a rigorous peer review process and demonstrated that their services are of the highest quality, measurability, and accountability.

According to the survey summary, the quality of the services provided by May Institute's Southeast Region is “second to none,” and “teamwork, mutual respect, cooperation, and open communication are demonstrated throughout the organization.”

The CARF report for SERAC was also complimentary: “Family members report a high level of satisfaction,” it noted. “One family member said that May Institute ‘made me feel hopeful again.’ This exemplified the commitment to quality services.”

“Our experienced, professional staff and outstanding clinicians throughout the Southeast Region and across the country have helped us set a standard for excellence in the behavioral health field that few, if any, organizations can match,” said May Institute President and CEO **Walter P. Christian, Ph.D., ABPP.**

To date, over 90% of the Institute's CARF-eligible programs have earned three-year accreditations, with the remainder scheduled for review in the immediate future. This constitutes one of the largest and most comprehensive accreditations CARF has ever awarded for a network of behavioral programs. 🍷

Georgia Children Work at Playing!

Boys and girls who receive home-based services through the Southeast Regional Autism Center in Columbus, Ga., had an opportunity to mix work and play at the Center's first social skills day. During a fun-filled event at Cooper Creek Park in Columbus, the children practiced taking turns, sharing, and following directions as they played a variety of games with their siblings and other children.

Activity coordinator **Melissa Chevalier, M.S., BCBA**, planned the successful work/play day that included a balloon toss to help children focus on attending and reciprocating interactions; relay races to encourage turn-taking and social interaction; and cookie deco-



Joslyn and Caleb Dills (l-r) participate in an activity with Anne Stull, M.A., BCBA, Senior Behavior Therapist.

rating to help youngsters learn to share with their peers and follow directions from facilitators. 🍷

Silicon Valley to Welcome New Center

Things are heating up in San Jose, Calif., as the date quickly approaches for the launch of May Institute’s newest program, the Pediatric Specialty Center.

An Open House and ribbon-cutting ceremony will provide the perfect opportunity to introduce the Center to the local community and to honor Cadence Design Systems, Inc., for its generous contribution of and leadership in raising more than one million dollars for the Center’s capital needs.

A coalition of community partners has worked together to develop this new “Center of Excellence” in Santa Clara County. Silicon Valley Children’s Hospital Foundation has committed its efforts to raising funds for the Center’s clinical operations, and Good Samaritan

Hospital has made a major capital gift through its donation of space.

The Center will serve children and adolescents from birth to age 22 with a broad range of needs and diagnoses including: autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities; mental health disorders; social-emotional problems; trauma-related issues; behavioral problems; and complex medical conditions.

May Institute staff will serve children and families in their homes, schools, or at the Center. We will also make referrals to medical specialists in the community, as appropriate. The Center will open at the end of January.

For more information about the Center, please contact us at 408.629.3050 or info@mayinstitute.org. 🍎

FALL FLING!

The Incredible Hulk, Star Trek crew members, pirates, princesses, hippies, a mad scientist, and several kinds of bugs were all on hand for The Bay School’s Fall Festival, held this past Halloween.

Before the big event many students traveled to a nearby pumpkin patch and gathered pumpkins of all sizes for the party. More than 20 families attended—many in costume—and enjoyed carving those pumpkins, decorating cookies, making masks, and having their faces painted. The



The Bay School students Greg (l) and Matt (r) decorate pumpkins with Instructor Katharine Bemserderfer, B.A.

biggest crowd pleaser was an end-of-the-day dance that brought smiles to the faces of students, teachers, and family members as they got out on the dance floor and cut loose!

Located in Santa Cruz, Calif., The Bay School provides educational and intervention services to students with autism between the ages of 2 and 21. 🍎

- *Exceptional Parent* magazine featured an in-depth article authored by May Institute’s **Alan E. Harchik, Ph.D.**, BCBA, Senior Vice President of Educational Services, and **Patricia Ladew**, Senior Writer, in the Military Section of the December print and online edition. The article, “Strategies to Help Children with Special Needs Enjoy Successful Community Outings,” highlights the success of a military family served through May Institute’s Atlanta office.
- Many May Institute sites are included on the ABC News website “On Call+ Autism” Resource Guide, highlighting our services across the country.
- May Institute was featured in *The Healing Thresholds* e-newsletter, a resource dedicated to “healing the lives of families touched by autism.” The site published the “May I Ask” column entitled, “Toilet Training for Kids with Autism,” by **Shannon Kay, Ph.D.**, BCBA, Director of the May Center for Child Development in West Springfield, Mass.
- The *Arizona Republic* interviewed **Susan Wilczynski, Ph.D.**, BCBA, Executive Director of the National Autism Center, for a story entitled “Program Helps Autistic Students Discover Joys of Recess.”
- The *New England Psychologist* highlighted the selection of May Institute President and CEO **Walter P. Christian, Ph.D.**, ABPP, for a “Champions in Health Care” Lifetime Achievement Award (story on cover).
- The *Fall River Herald News* (Massachusetts) published a column by **Deidre Donaldson, Ph.D.**, entitled “Blue Mood: Holidays Can Be a Time of Stress, Depression.” Donaldson is Director of the Fernandes Center for Children & Families as well as Director of Pediatric Psychology Services for May Institute.

JIM SPERRY'S ROLE EXPANDS



Jim Sperry, M.S., Senior Vice President of Adult Services, has assumed expanded responsibilities of our adult service programs.

In his new role, Sperry has clinical, operational, and fiscal oversight of the Revere, Mashpee, and Springfield, Mass., divisions as well as Manchester, Conn., and Orange Park, Fla.

Sperry has been with May Institute since November 2000, most recently serving as Senior Vice President of Adult Services for the Revere division. Sperry has published on a variety of topics related to the treatment of adults with developmental disabilities including medication usage, sleep patterns, and the prevalence of suicide attempts.

He received his undergraduate degree in psychology from Stonehill College, a graduate degree in counseling from Salem State College, and is currently earning an MBA at UMass Lowell. He serves as treasurer of the Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy. ●



SR. VP OF CONSULTATION SERVICES NAMED

Ralph Sperry, Ph.D., joined our staff this fall as Senior Vice President of Consultation Services.

A licensed clinical psychologist in four states, and a family therapist, Dr. Sperry is responsible for the operation and management of the Institute's home-based and school consultation services for children with autism and other special needs. He will also oversee operations as we continue to expand autism services for military families throughout the country.

Dr. Sperry comes to the Institute with over 25 years experience in behavioral health management. He served as Chief Executive Officer for psychiatric hospitals and behavioral health systems in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Mexico. Dr. Sperry has an appointment to the medical staff of the Newport Rhode Island Naval Station. He received his doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the Saybrook Institute in San Francisco, Calif. ●

INSIDE @MAY

Giving the Gift of Joy All Year Round

She is usually the first face visitors see at the May Center school in Randolph, Mass., where her down-to-earth presence and unassuming smile create a warm welcome. She's **Kathi Barry** (pictured at right), the school's receptionist, who skillfully juggles a constant stream of phone calls, questions, and requests. She keeps front office operations in tip-top order, and helps make the hustle and bustle of daily bus duty look effortless.

What someone might not know about her is that, in addition to her myriad responsibilities, Kathi has found time to secure nearly \$45,000 of in-kind donations to the Center over the past two years.

Having been a direct care worker and a long-time volunteer at a group home for adults with mental retardation, Kathi is no stranger to the challenges of individuals with special needs and the efforts required of those who care for them. Determined to find fun and creative ways to reward and appreciate



staff and students, she contacts businesses to encourage donations to the school. Her appeals have resulted in tickets for sporting and other special events, museums, concerts, theater, whale watching, and more. She has also secured hotel stays, autographed sports memorabilia, and a host of other donations.

"Businesses want to give. They really do," said Kathi. "And children with special needs should have as many opportunities as typical children. I'm just really happy to be able to help them to do so."

"Kathi is the employee every company would love to have," said **Priscilla Blew, M.A.**, May Center Program Director. "She understands the challenges our students and teachers face daily, and she strives to enrich their lives." ●

A HERO AMONG US

May Institute congratulates **Jade Lewis, M.Ed.**, BCABA, Behavior Therapist in our Southeast division. Lewis was recently named a "2008 Hero for Autism" by the Greater Georgia Chapter of the Autism Society of America. She was nominated by Major Bill Nelson and his wife Karen, the parents of a child to whom she provides autism services. "We love Jade," said Karen. "She is the best thing that has happened to our whole family. Our son Peyton's progress under her guidance has been phenomenal. She is a loving, dedicated, and exceptional therapist, and she is our hero." ●



Cisco Raises Awareness and Dollars for NAC

The spirit of giving is alive and well at Cisco. Last fall, the global Fortune 500 technology company made a significant donation to the National Autism Center.

The gift came from donations made by Cisco's IT organization and its employees, and from a variety of activities they organized as part of their yearly three-day international conference for senior managers from around the world. Each year, Cisco partners with a non-governmental organization to raise funds for a worthy cause. This year the focus was autism, and the National Autism Center was very pleased to be selected as the partner organization.

Employee donations were matched by both Cisco and the TOSA Foundation, a private foundation representing Mr. John P. Morgridge and family. Mr. Morgridge is Cisco's Chairman Emeritus.

"Cisco is about leadership and each year



we look to partner with an organization to understand more about a worthy cause and demonstrate leadership in our community," said Rebecca Jacoby (below), Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer of Cisco. "It was a

pleasure to partner with the National Autism Center to drive broader awareness about autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and to create an internal legacy that reaches beyond this single event."

At the conference, held in San Jose, Calif., the National Autism Center used a highly interactive approach to educate approximately 550 of

Cisco's senior Information Technology staff about ASD. Executive Director **Susan Wilczynski**, Ph.D., BCBA, provided a keynote address which described the global impact of autism and the challenges faced by individuals with ASD, their families, educators, and service providers.

Wilczynski also led a team-building activity to promote autism awareness and educate Cisco employees about ASD. ●

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER: IN-KIND GIFTS

The National Autism Center extends warm thanks to Thomas Bithell of Puzzle-my-Picture and Ted Paduck of Mix One Studios, Inc., who generously donated their services and skills to the Center for two of its recent initiatives.

Thomas, whose grandson has an autism spectrum disorder, created more than fifty large, beautiful puzzles that NAC used for a team-building and awareness-raising exercise at the Cisco conference (see story at left). His in-kind donation had a value of almost \$10,000.

Ted donated his time as recording engineer for the student soundtrack of the National Autism Center's autumn e-card. Setting up a mobile recording studio in the music room of the May Center for Child Development in Randolph, Mass., Ted worked closely with music teacher **Annie Christian**, M.Ed, to record over a dozen student singers. He also arranged a number of selections and joined fellow musicians in accompanying the student vocalists.

To view the e-card and hear the student singers, visit www.nationalautismcenter.org and click on "view e-card." ●

LUDCKE FOUNDATION RENEWS SUPPORT

The Ludcke Foundation renewed their funding for the National Autism Center's Early Identification Initiative in December 2008. A \$40,000 grant from this Boston-based foundation will

support the Center's screening and diagnostic services for low-income families from Greater Boston, urban Boston, and western Massachusetts communities. ●

UPCOMING @MAY

WORKSHOPS & FORUMS

May Institute Speaker Series: Experts on Autism

Autism From a Developmental Perspective is part of a FREE series jointly sponsored by the May Center for Child Development and the National Autism Center (NAC). It will take place on March 11, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the Randolph, Mass., campus. Dr. Laura Fisher, ASD Diagnostic Clinic Director at NAC, will review the signs and symptoms of autism at various ages and stages of human development.

For more information, or to register, please call 800.778.7601, ext. 456, or email info@mayinstitute.org.

California Forum on Positive Behavior Support (PBS)

PBS: Catalyst for Social-Emotional, Behavioral & Academic Success is a full-day conference for administrators and direct service personnel in education, mental health, and social services. It will take place on March 31, 2009 at First 5 Santa Clara County in San Jose, and will feature Dr. Rob Horner, professor of special education at the

University of Oregon.

For more information, contact 800.778.7601, ext. 456 or pbs@mayinstitute.org.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

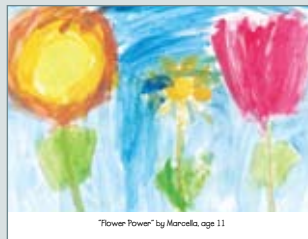
May Institute is pleased to announce "Cards By Kids," a special collection of beautiful blank note cards featuring delightful, whimsical artwork by children we serve. These cards are perfect as greeting cards, thank-you notes, and party invitations.

Choose from the "Nature" series, the "Creatures" series, or the "Abstract Art" series—or buy them all!

Each box of 12 cards contains three different designs. Cards are 5"x 7" and printed on high quality card stock. Blank white envelopes included. Boxes are \$15 each.

100% of the funds raised go to May Institute's programs and services.

To place an order, please contact Tyson Smith-Ray at 781.437.1269 or cards@mayinstitute.org.



"Flower Power" by Marcella, age 11

"Nature" series



"Bee-Buzz" by Abby, age 7

"Creatures" series



"Sunset" by Andrew, age 12

"Abstract Art" series

ABOUT MAY INSTITUTE

Founded in 1955, May Institute has its roots in a family's vision of enabling children with disabilities to lead the fullest lives possible.

Today, May Institute provides educational, rehabilitative, and behavioral healthcare services to individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities, brain injury, mental illness, and behavioral healthcare needs. The Institute also provides training and consultation services to professionals, organizations, and public school systems.

Our programs touch the lives of more than 25,000 individuals and their families each year at more than 200 service locations in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, and on the West Coast.

Together with the National Autism CenterSM, whose initial development has been sponsored by May Institute, we are committed to identifying and applying universal standards for the treatment of autism and to providing care and hope to families throughout the country.

MayInstitute
Shaping Futures. Changing Lives.

@MAY is published three times a year by May Institute's Office of Communications, 41 Pacella Park Drive, Randolph, Massachusetts 02368. © 2009 May Institute, Inc.

EDITORIAL STAFF: Julia Burgess, Editor | Patricia Ladew, Editorial Associate | Juanita Class, Designer | Eileen Pollack, Vice President of Communications

tel] 781.437.1348 fax] 781.437.1350 e-mail] jburgess@mayinstitute.org web] www.mayinstitute.org

MayInstitute
Shaping Futures. Changing Lives.

41 Pacella Park Drive, Randolph, MA 02368

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Randolph, MA
Permit No. 29