



Celebrating for a Cause

Fun, Food, Music and Awards at ACDS St. Patrick's Celebration

PLAINVIEW, ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK, March 26, 2015 – Friends and supporters of ACDS gathered at the St. Agnes Parish Center in Rockville Centre on March 7 for ACDS' annual St. Patrick's Celebration. More than 600 guests attended the lively event, a favorite for many in the community. All proceeds raised will benefit ACDS programs.

Festivities included live Irish music by Martin Flynn, exciting raffle prizes (including a trip to Ireland!) and a delicious array of food and drinks catered by Kasey's Kitchen & Cocktails of Rockville Centre. As a special surprise to the honorees, a group of ACDS DayHab participants performed Irish dances for the crowd.

During the event, Linda Sperber, Director of Adult Services at ACDS, was honored for three decades of service to the agency. Sperber began as a preschool teacher and moved up the ranks to become Coordinator of the 5PLUS Program. She was also instrumental in developing ACDS' Residential Program and the DayHab 'Without Walls' program.

Honorees Jim McHale, a longtime Board member of ACDS, and wife Sheila are have been involved with ACDS for more than 40 years. Advocates for the developmentally disabled for nearly half a century, both have 25 years of experience acting as Coordinators for Special Education at St. Bernard's Church. They also played an essential role in developing a highly successful fundraiser for the Holy Innocents Council of the Knights of Columbus.

"Our St. Patrick's Celebration is very special to us," says Michael M. Smith, Executive Director of ACDS. "Not only do we have the opportunity to interact with wonderful people who understand our mission, it's a chance to honor dedicated staff and members of the ACDS family. The commitment and compassion that Linda, Jim and Sheila have shines through in everything they do. A big thanks to everyone who attended and for supporting a cause that's close to our hearts."

ABOUT ACDS

ACDS, located in Plainview, NY is dedicated to providing lifetime resources of exceptional quality, innovation and inclusion for individuals with Down syndrome, autism and other developmental disabilities and their families. ACDS has been providing programs and services in and around Long Island since 1966. ACDS currently serves over 1000 children and adults, providing services that include Early Intervention and preschool special education programs,

respite and recreation programs for children, teens and adults, adult Medicaid service coordination and eight supervised group homes in Nassau County. For more information, please visit acds.org or call 516-933-4700.

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