

# spotlight on STAR, INC. LIGHTING THE WAY...



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## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MICROPHONE

By Nancy Armstrong, House Manager – Ryan House

**I**t happens every other Tuesday afternoon in the STAR cafeteria. The tables are moved out of the way to make room for the microphone stands. And then the band equipment is assembled around them. The drums are unpacked and put together. The members of the Music Club are strolling in after a hard day at work, arranging the chairs, greeting their friends. Guitars are tuned. The harmonica bag is strapped around a waist. The trombone sits on a pedestal. The members gather their percussion instruments and get a bottle of water from the cooler. The keyboard is turned on. The speakers are turned on. The wires are plugged in. There is electricity in the air as well as the equipment.

The microphones are cradled into their position.

"Testing... testing.....testing...".

It's time. The microphones are ready.

There are anywhere from 12 to 20 club members present on any given session, waiting on their turn to step up to the microphone and be the "rock star" if only for the moment.

However, the first song, which is sort of a theme song, is not a rock song at all. It's a philosophy. It's not even modern, but everyone knows the words.

"Oh, give me land lots of land under starry skies above..... Don't Fence Me In.. Let me ride through the wide-open country that I love... Don't Fence Me In."

From the microphone, I see the members tune in and focus on the song. I hear voices raised and tambourines shaking. Bodies are moving in time.

"Let me be by myself in the evening breeze, listen to the murmur of the cottonwood trees. Send me off forever but I ask you please..... "Don't Fence Me In."

The music is in them, they are the music. There are no fences. There are microphones.

While it appears to be all about the microphone, the common link for the STAR members is of course ... the music. Melodies have a way of speaking a universal language that we all understand. But it also the opportunity for camaraderie, or on the other end of the spec-

Continued on page 15



## spotlight LEAVE A LEGACY

*There's no end to the good you can do!*

STAR, Inc., *Lighting the Way...*, is just one of the more than 10,000 non-profit groups in Connecticut engaged in an enormous range of activities to improve the lives of our state's residents—but we can't do it alone. We need the financial support of people like you throughout the community to accomplish our mission. Why not consider taking advantage of a major opportunity often overlooked by the average person?

Each year, 72 percent of Americans give to charities. But only 5.7 percent leave charitable bequests in their wills, which would keep their charitable gift alive once they're gone. The number one reason people provide for failing to leave a charitable bequest is that they were never asked.

That's why STAR, together with more than 640 nonprofit organizations, have joined together to form LEAVE A LEGACY® Connecticut. As a statewide effort, the goal of LEAVE A LEGACY® is to persuade people to make wills (up to 70 percent of Americans don't!) and to remember charities in their estate plans through bequests.

So when you are thinking about putting your will in order or other estate plans, think about STAR, Inc., *Lighting the Way...*

To find out more, visit the LEAVE A LEGACY® Connecticut website at <http://www.leavealegacyct.org> or call STAR's Michael Petell at (203) 846-9581, ext. 302. Thank you!



## DELOITTE & TOUCHE NEWS

### *Leadership Grant Tuition Reimbursement*

Congratulations to the following staff who successfully completed college coursework in 2004 and received tuition reimbursement from STAR thanks to the generosity of the Deloitte & Touche Leadership & Education Grant:

- Abby Gill – House Manager
- Brook Riso – Assistant House Manager
- Rosann Salvo – Program Coordinator
- Sarah Stephensen – Overnight Residential Instructor

### *Impact Day*



In October, accounting firm Deloitte & Touche of Wilton sent employees to do some hands-on painting at a variety of STAR locations, including STAR's South Norwalk headquarters and three group homes. Almost 50 Deloitte & Touche employees volunteered at STAR as part of the company's "Impact Day" project, which involved 30,000 workers across the nation who contributed a day of work to a range of not-for-profit organizations.

# 2004–2005 Board of Directors

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Mark Carta

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### 2nd Vice President

John Lowman

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Mickey Herbst

John Primsky

Rupert Ridgeway

Robert Trost

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Llewellyn Smith

Pauline Randall

Rupert Ridgeway

## STAR

Katie J. Banzhaf — Executive Director

### Spotlight on STAR

Susan Cecere — Editor

PCI Group, Inc. — Design and Production

Deloitte & Touche LLP — Printing,

a very special thanks

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## STAR PARTICIPANTS "EXCEL" IN COMPUTER CLASS

The Computer Training Program at STAR is dependent on private and corporate contributions. STAR wishes to thank the following donors who have made the program possible to date:

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Arestia  
Bank of America  
Bulkley Foundation Trust  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Costa  
Ms. Ann Curry  
Mr. Philip Gibson  
Herman & Ethel Horwich Charitable Trust  
Joseph G. Markoly Foundation  
Milliken Foundation  
New Canaan Community Foundation  
New Canaan Sewing Group  
Rotary Club of New Canaan  
St. Mark's Outreach Commission  
St. Maurice Church  
St. Thomas Moore Church  
Westport Young Women's League  
Weston Women's League  
Wilton Kiwanis Foundation  
Wilton Presbyterian Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Witt

If you wish to make a contribution to the Computer Training Program, please contact Mike Petell at 203-846-9581, ext. 302.



*Clockwise from left: Larry Shortell, Helene Reede, Fred Concordia and Robert Witt participate in a session at the Computer Education and Training Center, which received a \$15,000 gift from Bank of America in 2004.*

conveniently located in South Norwalk at 90 Washington Street. Starting with just 12 individuals participating in the initial classes, the program has now grown to over 30 and there is a waiting list at least 10 deep for each session. Classes are offered in a variety of areas, including data-entry, keyboarding, internet access and email. Under the direction of Susan Forte, coordinator of the program, the curriculum is personalized based on the needs and interests of each participant. Over 500 hours of individualized training has been provided since the program's inception.

Some students use their newly acquired computer skills in their present employment, and over half now use computers at home. In fact, several students communicate with family members via email during class!

Computer Training Center trainees Robert Trost, Chris Backiel and Fred Concordia wowed the audience at the November 2004 STAR Annual Meeting with a PowerPoint presentation they prepared. To learn more about the program, please contact Susan Forte at 203-853-6404.

It seems like only yesterday, yet it was actually three years ago, when Buck Rodgers, Llew Smith, Mike Petell and Katie Banzhaf met to discuss the possibility of starting a computer training center for individuals with disabilities. Having recognized that new technological advances could open up job and communication opportunities for people with special needs, this group developed a proposal. With initial seed money from the Milliken Foundation, the dream became a reality.

STAR's Computer Training Center was officially established in 2001, offering the first training class on November 6th of that year. The training center is



### Larry MORELLI

Larry Morrelli, STAR Program Specialist for the past 14 years, is also a talented artist. Recently Larry (pictured left in his studio in New Haven) was featured in Connecticut Magazine promoting City Wide Open Studios, a yearly event celebrating the accomplishments of the areas top artists. Congratulations Larry!

# Annual MEETING



Left to right: Anne Eason receives the Parent of the Year Award from Linda Snell, Director of Family Support.



The Employer of the Year Award went to Stop & Shop Store #662. Left to right: Stop & Shop Manager Dino Wallace, Leslie Clark Chenard, Stop & Shop Supervisor Mary Thomas and STAR Employment Manager Pete Smith



Left to right: Kari Ryan, Director of Employment Services, presents the Volunteer of the Year Award to Carol Donegan.

Denise Sapione accepts the Jeanette Shivers Award. She was nominated by her housemates (left to right): Amy Ridgeway, Cheryl Kennen, Director of Residential Services; Robin Cichocki, Lorraine Arnold, Joan Carter, Denise Sapione, Debra Rudolf, and Abby Gill, House Manager.



Left to right: Susan Forte, Coordinator of the Computer Education and Training Center, is shown with Chris Backiel, Robert Trost and Fred Concordia, who inspired everyone in the crowd with their Power Point presentation which they learned in computer class.



The Humanitarian of the Year Award was presented to Donna Britto of Village Market by STAR Job Site Coach Mary Przybylowicz, Brenda Owens, Cynthia Timmins and Chris Backiel

**LOCAL LEGISLATOR RECOGNIZED***by Connecticut Association of Non-Profits*

**K**atie Banzhaf, Executive Director of STAR, and Alex Berardi, Executive Director of Keystone, presented Senator Robert Genuario with the Outstanding Legislative Leader Award from the Connecticut Association of Non-Profits (CAN) at the organization's annual meeting in October.

Bob was recognized for his longstanding commitment to persons with disabilities as well as his most recent advocacy for passage of the Indexing Bill which requires the Governor to index private sector Cost Of Living increases to the increases provided to state employees performing the same work when the Governor develops her budget for FY06. During the last legislative session Senator Genuario spoke eloquently and passionately for provider indexing legislation as a concept whose time has come: "This simple little bill that contains one paragraph is an extraordinary statement of policy. I look at what we have failed to do to this non-profit sector that provides such needed services and I worry, and that very important component of our infrastructure is crumbling. We cannot afford to allow



*Katie Banzhaf, Senator Robert Genuario and Alex Berardi*



*Peg Dignoti, Executive Director of ArcCT, presented the Arc Legislative award to Lt. Governor Kevin Sullivan at the Arc Annual Meeting, recognizing former Senator Sullivan for his leadership in introducing the indexing bill and securing bipartisan support.*

that service delivery system to deteriorate any more. We are taking this extraordinary policy step because we realize the crisis that the not-for-profit community is in. I think we can do better than what this bill provides, yet if we allow another year to go by to correct this situation we will have allowed the problem to get worse. I suggest we do more than promise that we fix the problem today. The amendment that I have submitted suggests that the provider community has waited too long."

Senator Genuario, a longtime friend of STAR and people with developmental disabilities, will be stepping down as State Senator at the end of 2004. He will not be straying far from public service and policy work, however, for as of January 2005 he will join the state Office of Policy and Management as Under Secretary.

# Rubino Dinner Dance LAST DANCE



## Ann and Angie Rubino raised more than \$1M over 30 years

**T**hirty years ago a young girl named Cathy changed Angie Rubino's life. Angie was performing with his band at an event at STAR, and Cathy, one of STAR's clients, was Rubino's biggest fan that night. She held his hand while he sang song after song, particularly enjoying a rendition of "And I Love You So" by Perry Como. Later that night when Rubino went home to his own children, he couldn't get Cathy out of his head. He and his wife, Ann, spent the night talking about her and about STAR. "I was so affected by Cathy and by the organization that I wanted to do something to help STAR and all of the children and adults like Cathy that it serves," recalls Angie.

Being a performer himself, and knowing a lot of other people in the industry, Angie decided that he would host small floorshows with comedians and music. "The way I saw it, God gave me a talent, so why not pass it on in a way that would help a great organization?" he says. "I was just so impressed with STAR that I wanted to do as much as I could for it." The shows started off as small events held at venues like the former Central Catholic High School (now All Saints Catholic School); Brien McMahon High School; Norwalk High School, and Darien High School. Each year the event would raise between \$2,000 and \$3,000 for STAR.

However, as word of the event spread, Angie began looking for a way to expand the fundraiser. That was when he and his wife had the idea for a dinner dance.

"When we first started, hardly anyone knew that STAR even existed," Ann says. "We wanted people to know about this organization that was doing so much for so many people." Now, 30 years after a little girl named Cathy introduced them to STAR, the Rubinos have helped raise over \$1 million for the organization.

For the Rubinos, STAR has become a part of their family. Their children grew up and began helping their parents organize the dance, and now their grandchildren are supporters of STAR.

On Sunday, March 28, 2004, the Rubinos held their dinner dance at Continental Manor. Over 450 guests attended, many of who have been supporters of STAR and the annual dance since its inception.

This year's dance, however, was particularly poignant because it is the last dance the Rubinos will host. As Angie explains, "It takes a long time to put this



Paul Widness and Sara Gouldin



Seated: Caesar and Rosalie Latte  
Standing: Joan and Art Scott



Standing: Lincoln Howes, Katie Banzhaf  
Seated: Jeanne Howes STAR founder and son Lannie Howes

together. I would do this another 30 years, if I could, but I want us to go out on top.” Retiring as chairman of the dinner dance fundraiser is a hard one for the Rubinos because STAR has become so much a part of their lives.

“Once you start to support an organization like STAR, you just can’t stop,” says Ann. “The minute you learn about STAR, you can’t turn away. You want to help because you see how dedicated all of the employees are and all of the good that they do. It’s sad for me, and for Angie, that this is our last dinner dance.” In celebration of 25 years of dances, STAR’s Infant & Children’s Program was named after them: *The Rubino Family Center*.

The Rubinos both believe that they will always be a part of STAR, even if it is in a different capacity. “There will be other ways that we keep in touch with STAR,” says Angie. “With the difficulty in fundraising these days, we want to do all we can to help them.”

Angie has kept that promise and performed at the STAR Holiday Dance

at St. Thomas Church and, keeping with tradition, a gifted singing Santa made his annual appearance at the STAR Rubino Family Center.

Thank you Ann, Angie, the Rubino children and grandchildren, and all of the dance committee members for your support throughout the years!



Left to Right: Llew Smith, Robert Trost, Angie Rubino, Katie Banzhaf and Mark Carta



Ann and Angie Rubino

## DARIEN BROWNIES DO A GOOD DEED



Brownie Troop #534 from Tokeneke School in Darien volunteered their talents to help residents from Ryan House prepare for Halloween.

On October 19th, 20 Brownies from Troop 534 of Darien celebrated Halloween with residents of Ryan House, a group home for adults with developmental disabilities in Norwalk administered by STAR Inc., Lighting the Way. Together with the residents the girls decorated windows with colorful, festive scenes and prepared goodie bags for trick or treaters. They sang Halloween songs to entertain the residents. Cora Osherow, the leader of

Troop 534, recalls, “It was a unique and extremely beneficial experience. The residents really enjoyed the visit by the girls and it helped them get in the spirit for the holiday. At the same time, the girls learned about the strengths of people with developmental disabilities.”

# STAR News Bites

*Auction Prize*



STAR's Garden Club plants "Blooms, Blooms, Blooms," an auction prize of 300 daffodils "sold" at the Galaxy 2004 Gala.

*Mitzvah Day*



Families of the Conservative Synagogue of Westport assembled back to school backpacks for STAR families at their 4th Annual Mitzvah Day.

*Charity Golf Tournament*



Steve Meade, Ralph Colantuono, Theresa Meade, Bobby Lanzetta and Lloyd Slackman at the First Annual Fairway Limousine - 95 North Restaurant Charity Golf Tournament at Oak Hills Golf Club to benefit STAR.

SAVE THE DATE for 2005 - Monday, June 6, 2005 at Oak Hills.

For information contact Steve Meade at (203) 847-8777.

*Catch of the Day*



Peter O'Neil shows off the first fish he ever caught - which happens to be the biggest fish ever caught off the dock of the Norwalk Yacht Club! The fish was eaten and enjoyed by Peter's entire family the same day. Peter caught the fish during a break from his job as maintenance assistant for the Norwalk Yacht Club.

*Cruise for a Cause*



Pauline Edwards, Theresa Meade, Katie Banzhaf and Steve Meade at the First Annual 'Cruise for a Cause' an enjoyable sunset cruise on Long Island Sound to benefit STAR. The event is now being planned again for the spring and summer of 2005.

For information contact Pauline Edwards or Steve Meade at (203) 847-8777.

## KNIGHTS OF *Columbus*



Terry Rooney and Knights of Columbus Council #1253 hosted a dinner for STAR staff and residents before presenting an annual contribution. In addition, STAR residents Sara Gouldin, Julie Keown and Robert Witt spoke briefly about their jobs, homes and hobbies to members in attendance.



Pat Finn, representing Knights of Columbus Council #46, presents a donation to Katie Banzhaf, Executive Director of STAR.



STAR Executive Director Katie Banzhaf accepts a donation from Gina Reilly of the Darien Sport Shop. The proceeds were raised during the opening of the store's new Ralph Lauren Men's Division.

## *Outstanding* VOLUNTEER



**M**ickey Herbst, former President of STAR, was presented with the Arc/CT 2004 Outstanding Volunteer Services Award at the organization's 52nd Annual Meeting held on November 30th. Mickey completed his second term as President of the Arc/CT and was instrumental with the settlement negotiations in the "Waiting List" lawsuit filed by Arc/CT against the Department of

Mental Retardation (DMR). Once final settlement is approved, funding will be available for some individuals with mental retardation on the DMR wait list to access services.

# STAR GALA *a Huge Success*

STAR Inc., Lighting the Way, held its Third Annual Galaxy of Stars Gala at the Wee Burn Country Club on September 18, 2004. More than 250 supporters of the organization attended the event, which raised over \$214,000 for STAR.

While the evening included cocktails, dinner, dancing, and a silent auction, the highlight of the night was the exciting live auction, which followed dinner.



Darien residents,  
Margaret Smith,  
Kim and Joe Leeker



Kim Bastoni and  
Polly Lowman  
of Darien



Stephanie Sisk, of Norwalk, Meg Cioffi of  
Rowayton and Gillian Nelson of Darien



The auction table



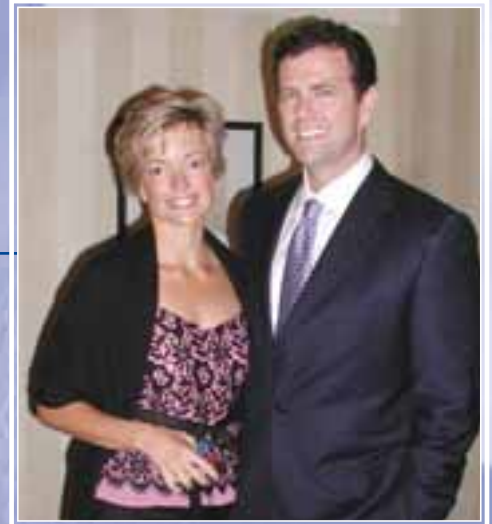
Darien residents, Gretchen Burke, Meg Thilmany  
and Barbara Fordyce

## SAVE THE DATE: FOURTH ANNUAL GALAXY OF *September 17, 2005*

This auction featured donated trips to Kenya, London, Jamaica, Florida, Turks and Caicos, VIP seating at the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, a luxury yacht cruise to Oyster Bay, a vacation at a Wyoming dude ranch, and a fantasy baseball experience at Fenway Park. In addition, attendees bid on an array of over 130 silent auction items.



Katie Banzhaf, Executive Director, STAR; Terry Geibel of Fairfield County Bank & Gala Co Chair; Meghan Cioffi, Gala Co-Chair from Rowayton; Joseph Viesta, Gala Co-Chair from Michael Joseph's Catering; and Mary Ferrara, Gala Co-Chair from the PCI Group.



Meg and Timothy Joyce of New Canaan



Elin Wincapaw, Westport; Joseph Viesta, Michael Joseph's of Darien; Elaine and Nick Cogna of New Canaan



Sandra & Matt Miklave of Norwalk



Anne & Chris Snyder of New Canaan; Joseph & Joan Dionne of New Canaan; Dick & Joan King of Wilton; Rosemary Merrell of Stamford and Mary & Lance Cunha of New Canaan

# STARS GALA DINNER DANCE & AUCTION

*Wee Burn Country Club, Darien*

Honorary Chairs: Mary Ferrara and Joseph Viesta  
Co-Chairs: Brenda Breitenbach, Terry Geibel,  
Polly Lowman and Margaret Smith

# Pool Party AT RYAN HOUSE

Once again the annual pool party at Ryan House was a huge success. Residents from all of STAR's homes, families, neighbors and staff enjoyed a cookout, singing and music.



Julie Keown, Mark Minnock, STAR Support Counselor, Nancy Armstrong and Arunis Viatusis (in the pool)



John Haney of Shivers House



Harold, Mildred and Billy Tolles

## *New Canaan Sewing Group & STAR*



Arunis Viatusis of Wilton Crest, Mike McCardle of Ryan House, Nancy Armstrong, Manager of Ryan House, and Keyana Galaza prepare the decorations for the party.



The New Canaan Sewing Group's annual Holiday Sale, was held at St. Marks Church on November 19th. The handcrafted items sold at the sale make excellent gifts and keepsakes for years to come, and their quality is unparalleled. Left to right: Brooke Manning Hinds, President of the New Canaan Sewing Group, and Lorraine Arnold.



Jimmy Esposito of Newtown Avenue

One of the most loyal supporters of STAR Inc., Lighting the Way..., has been the New Canaan Sewing Group. Since 1956 this exemplary organization has helped to improve the lives of infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities. Their total financial assistance of \$42,875 has touched the lives of literally thousands of individuals with disabilities over the years.

The New Canaan Sewing Group has a profound impact on our services for infants and preschoolers with developmental disabilities. It has enabled our therapists to purchase vital equipment that is essential in the delivery of early intervention services. The group additionally helped build a playground and provided funds for music therapy. When parents have needed time off from the constant demands of caring for a child with a disability the New Canaan Sewing Group has been there to help. They have funded respite care scholarships that have provided for in-home care or overnight stays at our Founders' Cottage. They have kept our cottage in excellent condition with generous donations that have allowed for the replacement of carpeting and the purchase of furniture.

And when STAR decided to begin a new Computer Education and Training Program the group was one of the first groups to provide funding. Today individuals are learning how to keyboard, access the Internet and develop job readiness skills thanks to this assistance.

Most recently several members immediately responded to STAR's need to hem the new tablecloths for the STAR Café at the Darien Sport Shop.

# CONNECTICUT *Public TV*

**F**rank Bores of Connecticut Public Television visited the homes of Anne Eason and John and Annie Gibson to film a PBS special on the lives of people with special needs. Look for this special to be aired in 2005.



Anne Eason with her daughter Eva and her friend Amy joins Frank Bores of CT Public Television



Frank Bores prepared for interviews with Annie and John Gibson at their apartment.

## SBC SNET'S *community connections*

*Get Connected & Help STAR!*

SBC SNET's Community Connections program will donate 5 percent of every dollar you spend on SBC SNET long distance calling, including in-state, out-of-state, international and calling card calls. If you are already an SBC SNET All Distance customer, you can keep your existing plan and sign up as well.

It is very easy to participate. Just call SBC SNET toll free at 1 (800) 635-SNET (7638) or sign up on the Internet at [www.snet.com/community](http://www.snet.com/community).

Registering on the web will place you on the SBC SNET "Flat Rate 7 cents Call Plan," which offers 7 cents a minute on all direct dialed, in- and out-of-state long distance calls with a \$4.95 monthly fee.

*NOTE: When registering our group name is STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way, and our group number is 2526. Thanks for your support!*



### *Recreation*

A dream came true when Jane Burgess (center) joined friends David Makszin, Beverly Barta, Jill Schreckengost, STAR's Community Services Manager, and David Hutchings for a STAR Travel Club trip to Graceland...home of her idol, Elvis Presley

## MICROPHONE continued from page 1

trum, individuality. One by one or two by two, the members are invited to take center stage and sing a song solo or help sing along on a chorus. A favorite is Johnny B. Goode. "Go, go. Go Johnny Go, go go."

Some of the members bring their own instruments. Guitars, drumsticks and harmonicas. The music is varied and in response to the members wishes. One member wants to sing, "The Chapel of Love" while another offers her version of "I'm in the Mood for Love". Each time we meet, we hear "Amazing Grace", "Jesus loves me" "Proud Mary", "Brown Eyed Girl". Time permitting, we even get around to a rousing version of a "God Bless America" and "America the Beautiful" medley.

While the activity is on the surface designed to be a recreational outlet, turns out that it is also an opportunity for so many other good things to happen. We receive notes and letters from members of the Music Club showing thanks or a desire to play with the band. My favorite was from Robin Shalvoy, who wrote, "My physical therapist and I both approve of Music Club. Since I've been coming here and dancing my therapy is going much better."

There are a number of percussion instruments that are passed out to the members. Tambourines, shakers and small drums. The first few weeks of meeting sounded more like chaos than music, but after months and now years of meeting and doing the same thing over and over again, as if all of a sudden, the members are keeping time and turning into seasoned performers. They are learning that together, we can make a good sound that makes us all feel a little or a lot better when the session is over and the microphones have been turned off.

Why do we do it?

Well, Mark Minnock, Support Counselor and I know why we do it. We like to play music. It feels good. In fact, we both enjoy it so much in our life outside of STAR, that the Music Club and the development of Rubberband was a means to share that joy with out resident's.

In order for a musician/vocalist to perform in front of another person, it requires a full presence of mind and a fair amount of concentration. One must remember the words, the chords, the rhythms, where to come in, where to stand, to breath, to enunciate, to smile, to watch each other and to remain with body, mind and soul in the moment until the tune has ended.

Each musician brings their strengths and weaknesses to a group. The goal is always to hone in on the positive, expand it... and then move each other towards the next step. One might be willing and able to sing... and remember every word (not that it's required) but find it difficult to hold the microphone in front of their mouth instead of their eyeball. First, get them to sing, then work on the microphone position.

Music is magic. Music makes us move and stirs something in us that makes us want to sing along, tap a foot or clap hands. And if it makes you smile, it makes you feel better. If you feel better, you stay healthier. If you stay healthy, you have more opportunity to repeat the entire process.

The members of Rubberband and the Music Club are also learning the jargon of the music business. They are learning to work together as a team (the camaraderie required to produce a song is blissful). And from what they learn, they gain... a sense of belonging to something bigger than themselves... self awareness... self-confidence.

Rubberband has enjoyed the privilege of playing in a number of community settings and experienced the thrill of an appreciative audience. It makes one dig a little deeper and work



## STAR Staff Anniversaries

Lois Coffin,  
Food Services  
Coordinator for the STAR  
Cafeteria, celebrated her 25th anniversary with STAR.



Ora Harris,  
Residential  
Instructor at Stoler House,  
celebrated her 20th anniversary with STAR.



In addition, the following staff each celebrated more than 20 years with STAR:

Katie Banzhaf - Executive Director  
Bill Casale - Director of Operations  
Irene Curtin - Director of Human Resources  
Janet Melfi - Director of Financial Services  
Nahid Meriweather - Nurse  
Judy Protter - Employment Specialist

a little harder at keeping a focus, just in case we have a chance to do it again. The experience, as well as the memory of performance is unique and personal and internally delicious.

Hank Williams is remembered for many a phrase, but the one that resonates most apropos in regards to Music at STAR was when he tried to comfort his wife when they realized that Hank Jr. (Bocephus) had some musical talent... "Audrey, it's in him, and it's got to come out."

Life could go on with or without the music, Rubberband and the Music Club at STAR, but what Mark and I have discovered can no longer be ignored or overlooked. It's in them,

# spotlight on **STAR DONORS**

*A special thanks to the many individuals, organizations, corporations, and foundations who made contributions to STAR from December 1, 2003 - October 31, 2004*

## ENDOWMENT

Austin Community Foundation  
Carat USA  
Dendrite  
Estate of James "Mac" Shivers  
Kissinger Associates  
Merlin Industries  
Minerals Technologies, Inc.  
Pfizer, Inc  
Psymark Communications  
The McGraw Hill Companies  
Tyco Healthcare Group United States Surgical

## DESIGNATED GIFTS THROUGH UNITED WAY

Ms. Laurie Allan  
Mr. Justin Bandura  
Bank of America  
Mr. Jeff Botsvest  
Mr. John Cehi  
Mr. Paul Cehi  
Mr. David Cohen  
Mr. Jeff Cooper  
Deloitte & Touche LLP  
Mr. Ralph DiMeglio  
Mr. Michael Gallo  
Mr. Andrew Garthwait  
GE Capital  
Georgia Pacific  
International Paper Corporation  
JP Morgan Chase & Company  
Ms. Kelley Kendall  
Ms. Cheryl Kennen  
Mr. Justin Kin  
Ms. Joan Lefkovsky  
Mr. John Leskovsky  
Ms. Elizabeth Martin  
Mr. Tom McHugh  
Mr. Michael O'Connell  
Pipe Vine, Inc.  
Pitney Bowes Matching Gifts Program  
Mr. Henry Reinhardt  
Mr. John Robinson  
Ms. Nancy Sandner  
Ms. Linda Snell  
Ms. Elizabeth Teller  
Mr. Peter Tessitore  
Ms. Kathleen Thornhill  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Tully

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