



Staten Island Advance

YMCA Counseling will honor supporters

Sunday, June 01, 2008

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The Staten Island YMCA Counseling Service will hold its 28th Anniversary Awards Brunch, Sunday, June 8, beginning at 10 a.m. with coffee, followed by brunch at 10:30 a.m. in the Hilton Garden Inn, 1100 South Ave., Bloomfield. Tickets are \$40 per person. For tickets and information on journal ads, call the YMCA Counseling Service at 718-948-3232.

The Staten Island YMCA Counseling Service is a comprehensive outpatient chemical dependency program providing prevention and treatment services to children, adolescents, adults and their families.

The annual brunch recognizes the achievements and efforts of the program's clients and also honors outstanding members of the community.

Honorees are: State Sen. Andrew J. Lanza (R-Staten Island); Melissa Lamb-Donath, principal, PS 22; and the Joint Board of the Vanderbilt Avenue Moravian Church.

An attorney, and a former City Council member, prosecutor, accountant and business owner, State Sen. Andrew J. Lanza brings extensive public and private experience to the Senate.

Controlling housing development and securing resources for children in schools and parks have been priorities for him.

Melissa Lamb-Donath is principal of Graniteville's PS 22, the largest elementary school in the borough. She established an award winning Virtual Y at PS 22, which became a model city-wide, before becoming Virtual Y director, overseeing the program in Staten Island and Brooklyn.

The Joint Board of the Vanderbilt Avenue Moravian Church has maintained a continuous Protestant Christian ministry in the Clifton - Stapleton area since 1889.

In 1990, under the leadership of Rev. Claude Knight, now retired, a new structure was constructed adjoining the current church building, which is utilized for church activities and YMCA counseling activities and events related to the New American Immigration Center which services the large, regional immigrant community.

The congregation is under the leadership, since 2007, of interim pastor, Rev. Dr. Reed Acheson.

Members of the joint board are: Rev. Reed Acheson, chair of elders; William Mundy, chair of trustees; Paula Presutti, vice-chair, elders; Ian Moe, treasurer and trustee; Fitzgerald Pierre-Louis, elder; Gwen Pierre-Louis, trustee; Ivy Mills, elder; Seymour Bunyan, trustee; Johnny Wright, elder; Ermell Abdul-Halim, trustee.

Co-chairs of the event are: Dr. Phil Drucker, associate professor at **St. John's University**, Grymes Hill, and Catherine Paradiso, adult nurse practitioner, associate director for ambulatory care/nursing, Sea View Hospital Rehabilitation Center and Home.