



**READY FOR SCHOOL** - Three hundred volunteers, including representatives of The Arc of Union County, KaBOOM! and Home Depot recently turned out to build a state-of-the-art playground for The Arc Kohler School at its new Mountainside location. With two slides, three climbers, swings and other special features, the playground will give children with developmental disabilities an opportunity to be challenged by and more fully enjoy their new education environment.

## Kids Playground to Benefit Developmentally Disabled

**MOUNTAINSIDE** - After more than six hours of work, volunteers from The Arc of Union County, employees of The Home Depot and organizers from KaBOOM! recently constructed a new, state-of-the-art playground for developmentally disabled children. The playground was built at a former industrial site in Mountainside which will become the new home of the Arc Kohler School this fall. More than 300 volunteers helped by assembling slides and swings, spreading mulch and constructing benches and planters. The day concluded with a "board cutting" ceremony to mark the completion of the work.

Part of The Arc of Union County, the school was established in 1964 as a collaborative education program designed to meet the unique needs of children ages 3 to 10 with developmental disabilities and their families in a private school setting.

KaBOOM! is a national, non-profit organization that seeks to inspire communities, businesses and individuals to build safe and accessible playgrounds for children. "The mission of KaBOOM! is to develop effective partnerships that bring resources and people together to pro-

vide children with safe and accessible play areas," remarked Darell Hammond, founder and Chief Executive Officer of KaBOOM! "This partnership is a wonderful example of how organizations can come together and create something positive. It sends a clear message to the children in the community that their time as a child is important," he added.

John Wicks, Mid-Atlantic President for Home Depot, said his company, "is proud to be working with KaBOOM! and the Arc Kohler School in enriching the lives of children with developmental disabilities. Building this playground is our way of giving back to the community."

Frank Caragher, Executive Director of The Arc of Union County, expressed appreciation to KaBOOM! and Home Depot for their participation in the project. "Because of the efforts of these volunteers, children enrolled in The Arc Kohler School will be able to enjoy this wonderful playground for many years to come," he stated.

The Arc of Union County is planning a formal dedication in September with the start of the new school year.



**REWARDING EXPERIENCE...** Megan Clarke of Westfield, fourth from left in top row, recently completed an eight-week Summer Externship Program for nursing students who will graduate next year. Megan's group worked on various units at Overlook Hospital in Summit, attended weekly seminars and observed Virtual Open-Heart Surgery at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City.

## Puzyk Attends Summer Program At Naval Academy

**MOUNTAINSIDE** - Civilian Michael A. Puzyk, the son of Anna and Stefan Puzyk of Mountainside, recently attended the United States Naval Academy's week-long summer seminar program in Annapolis, Md. He is currently a student at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains.

During the program, Michael was introduced to academy life through a regimen of academics, physical training, intramural sports, sailing and seamanship, as well as leadership training and social activities.

The summer seminar program was designed by the United States Naval Academy's Office of Admissions to give students a taste of the challenges and benefits of a Naval Academy education.

## Volunteers Sought For Research Study

**LIVINGSTON** - The Saint Barnabas Ambulatory Care Center is looking for female volunteers to participate in a two-year research study on osteoporosis. Osteoporosis is a disease characterized by a severe decrease in bone mass and structural deterioration of bone tissue. Currently, 10 million people in the United States have osteoporosis. An additional 18 million individuals have low bone density and are at a high risk for developing the disease. Over 80 percent of these cases involve women.

To be eligible for this free study, individuals must be between the ages of 55 and 80, five or more years past menopause, in good health and ambulatory, and must not be taking osteoporosis medication.

For information, (973) 322-7454.



**PREPARING FOR THE BALL...** Claudia Luecke of Westfield, left, is pictured with Diane Kaslow, Chairwoman of the Sixth Annual Pink Tie Ball, the area fundraiser of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Ms. Luecke will serve as Clean-up Chairwoman for the ball, to be held on Saturday, November 2, at the Continental Hangar at Newark Airport. The event raises funds for breast cancer research, education, screening and outreach programs in the nine-county northern New Jersey area. For information, call (908) 277-2904.

### Good News

"O Lord you have always been our home.  
Before you created the hills  
or brought the world into being,  
you were eternally God,  
and will be God forever."

Psalms 90:1,2                      The Gospel



**CONTRIBUTORS TO CAMP...** The Westfield Y's Men's Club recently made a donation to the Lilith Camp for girls, which is offered through the Y's Family Life Department. Pictured, left to right, are: Frank Gaglioti and Stephen Suriano, club members; Dave Ciarrocca, Past President of the club; Dave Mueller, Director of the Family Life Department; Mark Kuehn and John Wilson, members of the club.

## Y's Men's Club Contributes Funds to Camp For Girls

**WESTFIELD** - The Westfield Y's Men's Club has made a contribution to the Lilith Camp program, which is offered through the Family Life Department of the Westfield Y.

A sum of \$2,000 was donated to the three-year-old camp, the theme of which is "competence, connection and autonomy."

The money was generated by the Y's Men's very successful annual Christmas Tree Sale fundraiser.

According to Linda Christopher, Lilith Camp Coordinator, "we designed this program to help girls build a confident self-image and to address issues that challenge girls during their middle school years."

The Lilith Camp program runs twice each summer, for one week at a time. Its goal is to help girls discover their own strengths and positive ways to make social connections.

The Y's Men's Club is a fellowship

of individuals interested in service projects to aid the Y and other organizations that serve the community.

Projects include the Westfield Halloween Parade; the Y's Youth and Government and Leader's Club programs, along with its diving team; CONTACT We Care and Children's Specialized Hospital.

Club members have also recently helped with work on the Westfield Memorial honoring those who lost their lives on September 11.

The Y's Family Life Department offers programs for all family members, as well as many trips and activities.

For more information about the Family Life Department, please call Dave Mueller at (908) 233-2700, extension no. 233.

For more information on the Y's Men's Club or on becoming a member, please call Fred Wasiak at (908) 233-2700, extension no. 228.

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