



The Telescope

Monthly News Letter of the PROBUS Club of Greater Hartford

April 2017

MINUTES:

Probus Chapter Meeting of March 15, 2017 @ The American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, CT. Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by **President David Hoff**. He welcomed the assembled which included members, spouses and invited guests.

As a segue into introducing our special guest speakers tonight, 1st Vice President **David Maslin** noted that about 1 year ago we launched our Special Needs Grant Program. Approximately 12 grants have been awarded and come to fruition to date, most recently grants awarded by our Probus chapter to the **Wintonbury School** in Bloomfield and **The Oak Hill School**. Dave then stated that “one of the most rewarding grants we’ve done so far” is the one given to **Norfeldt School** in West Hartford earmarked for their wonderful music therapy program. It began with a well-researched and thoroughly documented grant proposal. This was spearheaded by **Michelle Tremblay Lacroix**, a 27 year veteran teacher (who for the last 10 years has been a Special Education teacher in West Hartford at Whiting Lane and Norfeldt Schools). Her drive to secure this Probus grant for multiply disabled students has been inspirational. David said that our guests tonight would provide us with an entertaining and insightful look into the world of music therapy. It was stressed that our education does not work in silos, but rather it requires that parents, groups like Probus and dedicated teachers invest in the holistic process.

Our main guest speaker tonight was **Emily Bevelaqua**, MMT, MT-BC. She also introduced 2 of her colleagues who also added to the discussion: **Heather Gallinoto**, Paraprofessional and **Pat Klimanowski**, Paraprofessional. Emily is Co-Director and Clinical Coordinator of Connecticut Music Therapy Services and is a board-certified music therapist who has experience with a wide range of client populations including children and adults with autism and neurological disorders, learning disabilities, multiple disabilities, Alzheimer’s, dementia, PTSD, addictions and depression.

Emily spoke about the benefits of music therapy and how she tailors her approach to each individual client or student depending upon their needs and what would be most therapeutic for their situation. She then pulled out her guitar and to get us in the mood she lead us in a song: “This little light of mine, I’m gonna make it shine....” Emily explained that music therapy is clinical and evidence-based. She adheres to standards of clinical practice and she and her team often provide individualized interventions. The focus on areas such as memory-based goals for their students. Additionally, they help to facilitate speech and language skills and gross motor skills for their students. Emily added that there are currently about 70 colleges in the United States which offer Music Therapy degrees on the Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral levels. Music Therapists work in tandem with a student’s IEP (Individualized Education Plan) and can also add enrichment to the student. A Music Therapist can tap into a student’s receptive experience as witnessed by the child’s facial affect and body language. Additionally, the non-verbal language

can be impacted as well. Emily mentioned “compositional” meaning that the music therapist helps the student to develop a sense of ownership of a song. Sometimes Emily will record the child singing or keeping the beat on a song. She will burn a CD of the recording and let the child give the CD to his or her parents. She also touched upon the fact that music can invoke images of one’s happiest times, saddest times or traumatic times. Music Therapy has its origins back in the 1950’s and today most Children’s Hospitals offer rich and comprehensive music therapy programs for their patients.

During the Q & A session we learned that Art Therapy, a different discipline, is more counseling-based than Music Therapy. Emily also said that her business partner works exclusively at The Resiliency Center in Newtown, CT for trauma victims of the Sandy Hook School shooting tragedy.

Due to the extensive nature of tonight’s Music Therapy discussion, we did not have a formal business meeting. **Mark Goldberg** did mention that he was approached following our grant award ceremony at The Oak Hill School by a woman who mentioned that **Oak Hill** maintains a rope trail where blind clients go on nature walks and use their other sensory capacities (e.g. smell, sound, etc.) to enjoy the great outdoors. They would like our Probus chapter to consider doing a trail clean-up day sometime, whenever it is convenient for our group. Mark will obtain more information as to the location of this trail for the blind and timeframe and report back to the membership soon with a sign-up sheet. Oak Hill will provide the rakes, shovels, picks (for removing rocks from the trail). Details forthcoming.

Reminders: **Hal Levy** circulated a sign-up sheet for the 2 days of our **Crown Supermarket Collections** (April 2nd & 9th). Our next chapter meeting is April 19th. **Michael Croll** will provide a **Raffle** update at that meeting and/or via email. Installation Dinner is not in June, but rather on Tuesday, May 23rd at 6:00pm. Mark your calendars!

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, **Charlie Dobrow** Secretary

SSNE (Supporting Special Needs Education) Mark Goldberg:

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I hope all of our members are aware that there is a special project of the Greater Hartford Probus Club. We have been talking about it for a couple of years. The program receives requests for grant money to provide various projects for clients with Special Needs. The grant requests are received and reviewed by the SSNE Board. When approved we give grant money (up to \$500) and then we review the success of the project to make sure it accomplished its objectives. Well, we are reaching out to more and more towns that are contiguous to Hartford. For the first time we have actually gotten requests from Hartford itself. It seems that we are being noticed. For the first time, we have started adding people to our list of Advisor Council. Our first member of this body is Michelle Tremblay Lacroix. She attended our meeting this past Wednesday and was crucial to the input of reviewing people to add to the council as well as reviewing the new applications. Her expertise is invaluable and she seems to know everybody who is influential. She is going to become a member of the club and we will welcome her with open arms. She will make an incredible member and add so much.

The other new addition to the Advisory Council is our own Honorable **Syd Elkin**. Wow, what a line up. Stay tuned- big things are about to happen. This SSNE is going to put Hartford Probus on the map. Just wait until the real publicity starts.

SSNE Project (Supporting Special Needs Education) - Ed Peltier

The SSNE project has approved two additional grants. We finally have gotten access to Hartford Public Schools and were pleased to receive a grant application for \$492; for reading materials for Milner School special education students. We also received an application to support a science Conservation Club activity, using salmon eggs from Oak Hill School. The students, will plan, oversee the hatching of the salmon eggs and release the fry into the Farmington River. \$500 was awarded to this innovative project.

We are quite pleased that we finally have a contact with Hartford Public Schools and look forward to other opportunities to help meet the needs of Special Education students in Hartford. Thanks to all Probus members who have supported the SSNE and our making a difference in the lives of these youngsters with disabilities.

Horizons and The Probus Club of Greater Hartford – Mark Goldberg

We want EVERY club member to find at least ONE intake day and attend. Team up with others to form a car full. Bring friends, spouses, children, neighbors, whom ever. It will be a moving experience AND what a great opportunity to see for yourself what an incredible facility this is. You will see firsthand where your money goes. You will see for yourselves the joy that you bring by fund raising. You will see how your effort translates into an incredible experience, in fact a life changing experience, for some handicapped child. The experience will bring tears to your eyes and will be a life changing experience to you as well.

Some of you have brought husbands /wives/parents/friends/children to help that day. All are welcome. I have tasks for everyone from photo taking, greeting arriving campers, cookie passing to giving free t-shirts. The campers and families begin arriving at 12: noon and wrap up around 4:00 pm.

The largest groups of campers arrive on the first and third intake days, with the new cabins and tours will also be a featured activity this year.

Please let **Mark Goldberg** know which dates work best for your schedules. I truly appreciate all the time you already give to Horizons and understand if none of these dates work for you.

June 18 – Intake Day 1

July 2nd – Intake Day 2

July 23rd – Intake Day 3 (Mark’s Birthday)

August 6th – Intake Day 4

Note from Probus Club President **David Hoff:**

Dear Probus friends,

An important part of business at our next meeting (**April 19th/Wednesday at 6pm**) will be the **election of officers** for the next two years-2017- 2019. Your opinion, nominations and vote is most important. The nominating committee has come up with the following slate recommendations:

- President: David Maslin
- 1st Vice President: Michael Croll
- 2nd Vice President: Charles Dobrow
- Treasurer: Meyer Frankel
- Secretary: Charles Dobrow

Please also mark your calendars for the **Installation Dinner on May 23rd--Tuesday at 6pm.** You are invited to bring one spouse/significant other as a guest. Please plan on being on time. It will be held at the same place as our regular meetings.

Thank you all and looking forward to seeing you.

Reminder: The Next Probus Meeting:

Date: Wednesday April 19, 2017

Time: 6:00 PM

**Location: American School for the Deaf
139 N Main St, West Hartford, CT 06107**

No Speaker: Business Meeting – Election of Officers

Results of the Probus Collections at the Crown: 04-09-2017 & 04-02-017

\$644.75 was the Probus "Collection" at the Crown on Sunday 04-09-2017.

\$297.13 was the Probus "Collection" at the Crown on Sunday 04-02-2017.

\$941.88 Total

Thank you to all the Probians who participated in the two-day Crown collections and to Chairman Hal Levy.

Thanks,

Meyer

An Easy Fund Raiser

Occasion Cards

As you know, the Probus Club is 100% committed to helping those that, for no fault of their own, cannot help themselves. One of our fundraising events that we sponsor is the ability for us to be able to accept contributions to honor, praise, memorialize or make a special acknowledgement to someone who is either in our presence or in our memory.

By you making a contribution to the Probus Club, our very own Bruce Stanger will process your contribution; inform the donee that a contribution was made to Probus to recognize him or her and for the event that is being recognized. Also, an acknowledgement will be sent to you, the donor, to thank you for your charitable contribution to the Probus Club. As always, 100% of donations to the Probus Club are used exclusively for charitable purposes.

Consider the Probus Club when honoring or remembering someone special.

Bruce Stanger can be reached at:
Attorney Bruce Stanger
433 South Main Street
Suite 112
West Hartford, CT 06110

The check should be made payable to The Probus Club and forwarded to Bruce along with the information necessary for a proper acknowledgement. Thank you for supporting The Probus Club.

Meyer Frankel, Editor

The "Telescope" is the monthly newsletter of the Probus Club of Greater Hartford.