

# Bridge Financial Group holds inaugural 9/11 blood drive

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Bridge Financial Group hosted its first-ever 9/11 Blood Drive.

The group joined forces with the New York Blood Center for the drive.

The Island drive was held at the company's Bloomfield office. The regional operations in Manhattan, Brooklyn/Staten Island, Long Island, Hudson Valley, and New Jersey called upon the community to donate blood in honor of the thousands of men, women, and children affected by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Each pint of blood donated can help save as many as three lives.

New York Blood Center (NYBC) brought a bus for the donors' convenience.

Other businesses whose employees supported the event included the Saint Paul's School of Nursing, College Bound Network and the Nicotra Group.

Bridge Financial also provided refreshments to those donating blood.

Bridge Financial Group, an office of MetLife, is all about being a good neighbor on Staten Island where they employ nearly 100 individuals at their corporate offices.

## CURTIS ALUMNI

The Curtis High School Class of '59 Reunion Committee donated \$1,000 to Curtis High School.

On hand for the presentation at the school were committee members and reunion co-chairs Ann Somma-Terjesen and Susan Lamberti, who presented the check to Principal Aurelia Curtis. Also present were faculty advisor James Minenna and some of the participating students.

The funding will go toward the Curtis High School Guitar Ensemble; it will enable the group to provide cordless microphones for its members.

The money was raised during the Class of '59 50th Reunion in 2009 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield. During the dinner-dance fundraiser attendees were entertained by the ensemble.

## 4G GRANT FOR WAGNER

Wagner College alumnus Lynne and Harold Theuer presented a \$4,000 grant to the College.

The funding will support the work of the Men's Center at the college. The activities of the center consist of a men's group that meets weekly to discuss issues of importance including being a man in today's society, organizing retreats for the group's members, providing and assisting with research on men and masculinity (especially boys and college-age men), and outreaching to other colleges and universities to establish similar centers.

Wagner College is now the flagship school for such cen-



Tara Gibbs, Nadine Rando, Aprile Affrunti, Michelle Gonzalez and Pat Rizek were on hand for the Bridge Financial Group's inaugural 9/11 blood drive, held in conjunction with the New York Blood Center.

ters and a number of other schools are now in the stages of preparing to establish a center on the Wagner model.

The grant includes a pledge for an additional grant next academic year for the total two-year, start-up period of the center.

## RAINBOW'S HOPE

Northfield Bank Foundation and Steve Zaborowski each donated \$5,000 to Rain-

The Advance Woman of Achievement, founded Rainbow's Hope in 1990, which works to serve chronically and terminally ill children. The funding will provide enough holiday presents for children she services through her agency.

Zaborowski is the owner of Select Equipment in Travis.

Some of the presents will be delivered to children who

Brighton's Ladder Co. 79.

## MANRESA COLUMBIETTES

The Manresa Columbiettes presented \$1,400 to The Transcription of the Blind.

The check was presented by Manresa Columbiette President MaryAnne Alessi to Micki McGee, president of the organization.

The Transcription for the Blind Program, raises funds for blind people of all ages. It also develops alphabet

Also during the event, the new organization was presented with a statue by the Christ the King Columbiettes for opening the new council. The new council, which has 50 members, began in March.

## AFRICAN REFUGE, INC.

The Verizon Foundation donated \$7,500 to the African Refuge, Inc.

The presentation was made at the African Refuge Youth and Family Center in