

FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

30

ANNUAL GALA  
CELEBRATION

*A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!*



## The Federation's 30th Anniversary Gala

by Brooke Heraty



From left: Assistant Secretary of Education Susan Sclafani, Herb Clark, and Barbara Popper

The Federation for Children with Special Needs gathered staff, family, friends and supporters together at the Seaport Hotel in Boston on May 21, 2004 to celebrate the Federation's 30th Anniversary and to acknowledge the contributions of everyone who makes our work possible. The Federation is celebrating its 30th year as a Massachusetts parent center and as a national leader in parent information, resource, and training services.

Our Gala was a "spectacular night" with over 350 guests hailing from Texas, Washington D.C., New York and all parts of Massachusetts; the Holt Companies, JP Morgan, and Morgan Stanley provided generous support.

The evening began with a reception in the Plaza Lobby and a silent auction that drew an enthusiastic crowd of interested bidders. A vast array of unique gifts, including special tickets and gift certificates to area restaurants, hotels, and museums, brought in a record amount. Over 170 restaurants and businesses



From left: Academy Award winning actor Chris Cooper, writer/actress Marianne Leone Cooper, and artist Jessica Vohs



Amy Robison and Chris Jones



Yourlanda Johnson and Honoree Dr. Allen C. Crocker

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## FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



From top left: Staff members Kathy Morin and Barbara Donati  
From bottom left: Sara Diaz, Jackie McKeon, and Holly Neal



From left: Silent Auction Chair Allyson DeNoble, Diane Whalen,  
President of the Board Daniel Heffernan, and Julie Heffernan



Treasurer, Federation Board  
Peter Brennan and Jennifer  
Aresco Brennan



Robert Crabtree and  
Evelyn Nellum

willingly donated their time, services, products, merchandise and food to augment the Federation's fundraiser—a three-night stay at Canyon Ranch in the Berkshires raised nearly \$3,000! The music of Brazilian Sergio Brandao's Quartet, regulars at the Regatta Bar of the Charles Hotel in Cambridge, complimented the elegant dinner and awards ceremony which followed.

This year the Federation presented the Martha H. Ziegler Founder's Award to Dr. Allen C. Crocker, Senior Associate in Medicine at Children's Hospital Boston, Program Director, Institute for Community Inclusion, and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard. The award was presented to Dr. Crocker by Federation long time staff member, Betsy Anderson, Co-founder of the Federation/Family Voices, in recognition of over fifty years of putting families and children with special needs first—all of the time. Betsy recalled 30 years ago when the world for families and children with special needs was quite different. The years when hospitals were not "family friendly" limited parental visitation hours and overlooked the contributions parents had to offer; there were few services and it was a difficult climate for parents. Dr. Crocker, however, ventured out of the hospital and regularly came into the community to the early parent meetings, even when he was not on the agenda! He listened to parents, people with special needs, professional colleagues and he became engaged. Betsy reminded us that he was active in special education efforts—when few MDs were—and how supportive he was of the Federation's first health efforts, "encouraging us, giving us ideas and repeatedly telling us what we were doing was important." Dr. Crocker did not have to be taught family-centered care; he lived and modeled it for generations of human service professionals. In short, Dr. Crocker worked tirelessly in all these areas, creating opportunities, inspiring others—he was a teacher, friend and mentor. Thank you again, Dr. Crocker.

We were delighted to have Joe Sciacca, Deputy Managing Editor for Politics at the Boston Herald, return as our emcee for the evening. As a parent, his wit and humor set just the right tone for the evening.

Proceeds from the 30th Anniversary Gala provide the critically needed funds to support the work of the Federation. Over the past year, staff, volunteers, and board members worked together to ensure the financial success of this annual event. It is a collective effort and we are pleased to announce that this year's fundraising goal of \$130,000 was achieved.

The Federation wishes to commend all the donors, volunteers, program participants, and supporters who made this the best Gala yet. We are honored by your commitment to the Federation's mission and thank you for your support.

Mark your calendars now for next year's Annual Federation Gala. It will be held at the Seaport Hotel in Boston on May 20, 2005.



ANNUAL GALA CELEBRATION



Janet Vohs (I) with her daughter, Jessica Vohs



Charlotte Swartz (I) and Director of Development, Brooke Heraty



Elias and Marcia Araujo



From left: Board Member Ed DeNoble with Brian and Cindy Casey



From left: Barbara Popper, Founding Executive Director Martha Ziegler, Caitlin Donnelly, and Susan Epstein



From left: Tom and Orsi Bausemer, Associate Executive Director Pat Blake, Michael Bausemer, and Maribeth Timony



From left: Jenna Wasson, Holly Neal, Marilyn Gutierrez, and Peter Wilson



Paul Duffy and friend



From left: Master of Ceremonies Joe Sciacca, John Sullivan, Executive Director Rich Robison, President, Federation Board, Daniel Heffernan



Betsy Laitinen (I) and Jane Marquet



From left: Staff members Deyin Zhang, Wanda Morton, and Linda Cohen



From left: Jim Gaye, Becky, Lou and Connie Rizoli

The Federation for Children with Special Needs gratefully acknowledges the generous financial support of the following individuals and organizations. They helped make the Federation's 30th Anniversary Gala possible. It is through the collective support of those who have gathered this evening to volunteer their time, energy and financial support that we are able to continue to grow as well as ensure that the Federation's capacities be significantly enhanced to meet the challenges of the next 30 years.

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#### Special Thanks to the Volunteer Silent Auction Committee:

Linda Cohen, Hope and Gary Colen, Allyson and Ed DeNoble, Jillian Erdos, Brooke Heraty, Marcella Judge

#### Silent Auction Donors

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Washworld  
The Weathervane Inn  
WEEI 850 AM Sports  
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Winston Flowers  
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Wrights Factory Outlet  
Yayla Tribal Rugs  
Zaftigs Delicatessen

#### The Federation for Children with Special Needs wishes to give special recognition to:

- Ed DeNoble and Jim Whalen for helping us to make this a truly successful fundraising event.
- Miryam Wiley, Hope and Gary Colen, Ed and Allyson DeNoble, Micki Avery, Jillian Erdos, Marcella Judge, Michael Bausemer, Andrea Watson and Linda Cohen for their outstanding work in soliciting silent auction donations.
- Mary and Brooks Thompson, Deyin Zang and Chong-Sheng Wang for their coordination of the silent auction tables.
- Pat Blake for her coordination of staff and volunteers.
- Anne Howard and Rosie Howard Carter for her creative Gala decorations.
- Donna Pinzone for donating her time and skill with the flower decorations.
- Green Mountain Coffee Roasters for their generous donation of individual coffee bags for Gala guests.

The Federation for Children with Special Needs wishes to thank all staff, volunteers and board members for their dedication and commitment to quality education, healthcare, and for their tireless efforts working to protect the rights of all children.

#### The Federation also wishes to thank the program participants:

- Dr. Allen C. Crocker, Sergio Brandão Quartet and Joe Sciacca, as well as all those in attendance at the 2004 Gala.

#### With Appreciation...

The Federation would like to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations for their support and assistance with the Gala:

- Printing by Gnomon Copy
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- "A Look at the Federation"—Video Presentation—Jessica Krywosa