

Alternatives For Children



www.alternativesforchildren.org

FALL NOVEMBER 2015

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN CELEBRATES
THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS & THEIR FAMILIES

I am blown away by the progress I've seen in my son since coming to Alternatives. Have recommended the school to those who I know would benefit. Couldn't be more appreciative for the staff and all you do.

My child's team is an asset to your organization. They are wonderful teachers and people that have helped my son show so much progress.

I have absolutely loved every minute of watching my daughter strive for and reach new goals. I owe it all to your outstanding staff and program! IMPRESSED!

The staff at Alternatives have been wonderful. My son loves going to school and has come so far with the help of his teachers and therapists. Not only have they given him the support that he needed to succeed, but our family as well.

We are so thankful for the last two years our son got to spend at Alternatives. He has grown beyond our expectations. Thank you!

We all know in our hearts that charitable giving is a noble gesture that can potentially benefit many. We at Alternatives For Children understand that you, our generous friends, must choose carefully what organizations you support. We also understand that in these challenging economic times that people intent on giving must find ways to budget their charitable contributions so such donations do not negatively affect their personal finances.



Although we ask for your support during the year for our two major fundraisers, our Golf Outing and Road Rally, we also reach out to you during the holiday season, counting on your spirit of generosity and good will that is synonymous with the season.

We, like you, know that the holidays can be a particularly trying time of year on finances. Already strained budgets may be pinched even further as we shop for our loved ones for the holidays and plan for time spent together as family. We only ask that when you are thinking of your end of the year giving that you consider Alternatives For Children and the difference we make in the lives of children with special needs and disabilities and their families.

Determine what you can afford. We would never pressure you to stretch your budget because you feel your contribution is insignificant. Every little bit helps.

You might consider dividing your contributions into installments if you're not able to make a lump sum donation. Many people find it's much easier to gather a few dollars here and there than to part with a large amount of money all at once. You can always access our donation page throughout the year on our website.

You might consider asking family or friends to donate to Alternatives For Children in lieu of a gift when the holiday season or your birthday rolls around. This allows you to contribute to your favorite cause even if you're financially incapable of making your own donation.

You might consider pooling your resources with other like-minded individuals and contribute collectively. You may be able to donate more than you ever believed when other people contribute.

However you give, whatever you give, know that you help us make a difference in the life of a child with special needs.

<http://www.alternatives4children.org/make-a-difference.html>

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
2015 ANNUAL YEAR END CAMPAIGN

Please mail in your Donation Today
or donate on our website

However you give . . . Whatever you give

Know that YOU

Help Us Make a Difference
in the life of a child with special needs

Thank you!

<http://www.alternatives4children.org/annual-campaign.html>

Alternatives for Children

Mission Statement

To provide the highest quality special and regular education programs and services to children with disabilities and typically developing peers.

Education, medical, pediatric rehabilitation, and support services are integrated to ensure the comprehensive needs of the child and family are met.

14 Research Way
East Setauket, NY 11733

631-331-6400

Preschool Programs
Child Day Care
Early Intervention Services
Universal Pre-K
Administrative Office

1116 Main Road
Aquebogue, NY 11931

631-722-2170

Preschool Programs
Child Day Care
Early Intervention Services
Universal Pre-K

600 South Service Road
Dix Hills, NY 11746

631-271-0777

Preschool Programs
Child Day Care
Early Intervention Services

168 Hill Street
Southampton, NY 11968

631-283-3272

Preschool Programs
Child Day Care
Early Intervention Services

Executive Director

Marie E. Ficano, Ed.D.

Board of Trustees

Fredric Mendelsohn, MD

Chairman

Tina VanVort, Esq.

Secretary

James Buzzetta

Anjali Jamdar

Michael Russell

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN CELEBRATES & THANKS MR. VINCENT R. O'LEARY FOR HIS YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with an organization update with regard to Alternatives for Children's Board of Trustees. First and foremost, Mr. Vincent O'Leary has tendered his resignation as Chairman of the Board. Mr. O'Leary has provided longstanding stewardship, guidance and support for our organization since its inception, during both the challenges and our many accomplishments.

Mr. O'Leary has been a guiding force at Alternatives for Children since its inception in 1988. Through the years he has shared his managerial insight, derived from twenty-nine years experience as Associate Director of Administration at Brookhaven National Laboratory, and later as CEO of Nassau-Suffolk Lumber and Supply.



During his time at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Vince also served as the president of St. Charles Hospital and Rehabilitation Center in Port Jefferson; treasurer of Brookhaven Town's Industrial Development Agency and chairman of its Economic Commission; vice president of the Emma Clark Library in Setauket; vice-president of the Boy Scouts of America Suffolk County Council; trustee of the Stony Brook Community Fund; and United Way Campaign Cabinet Member.

Mr. O'Leary is an active and enthusiastic community and civic minded volunteer, where his experience is valued by numerous community-based nonprofit organizations. Mr. O'Leary continues to make the rounds of his favorite organizations, including Maryhaven Center of Hope, the Stony Brook Community Fund, Suffolk County Boy Scouts, and Meals on Wheels.



Closest to his heart though, where his stewardship has been invaluable, is Alternatives for Children and the children and families we are privileged to serve. We thank Vince for his many years of enthusiastic and dedicated service. We would not be where we are today as an organization were it not for Vince's focused foresight, clear vision, and his constant support and encouragement.

I am proud to inform you that Dr. Fred Mendelsohn, current board member as well as our Annual Golf Outing committee chair, was unanimously elected to succeed Mr. O'Leary. Dr. Mendelsohn will serve our organization well as Chairman of the Board given his keen understanding and appreciation of the mission of our organization. Ms. Tina VanVort, Esq. was elected to the role of secretary of the board replacing our dear colleague Mr. Joseph Dempsey who passed a short time ago. Mr. Jim Buzzetta, Mr. Michael Russell and Ms. Anjali Jamdar are our other members of the board. All board members serve without remuneration, and we thank them for the expertise each brings to our Board.

Marie E. Ficano, Ed.D.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN EAST SETAUKET
VINCENT R. O'LEARY PARENT WELCOME CENTER

In honor of Mr. O'Leary's longstanding stewardship, Alternatives for Children names our East Setauket lobby parent waiting area the *Vincent R. O'Leary Parent Welcome Center*. After much consideration it was determined that this would be an appropriate tribute to and commemoration of Vince. This is where it all begins for parents, this waiting area; where they start their journey with their child and Alternatives For Children. The dedication of the *Vincent R. O'Leary Parent Welcome Center* is an acknowledgement of the twenty-seven year path traveled by Alternatives For Children with Mr. O'Leary at the helm; a reminder of the families and children that have been so proudly served by Alternatives For Children, and for the many children and families yet to come.

The *Vincent R. O'Leary Parent Welcome Center* also serves an information hub. The area is decorated with informational posters, and brochures are available for parents on a variety of topics concerning early childhood development, children with special needs, and parenting tips and tools. This area also serves as an informal networking center for parents, who can often be found talking with each other as they wait for their children. Information is exchanged, playdates are arranged, and support for each other is given. A busy place that we now dedicate to a man who throughout his career and into retirement was so busy making Alternatives For Children and the local community a better place. Thank you Vince!



Under the Leadership of Board of Trustees Chairman O'Leary,
Alternatives For Children Breaks Ground on
State-of-the-Art facility in East Setauket
April 3, 2003



Alternatives For Children East Setauket
Ribbon Cutting
with Mr. O'Leary doing the honors
February 5, 2004

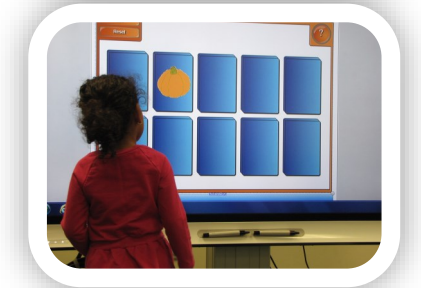
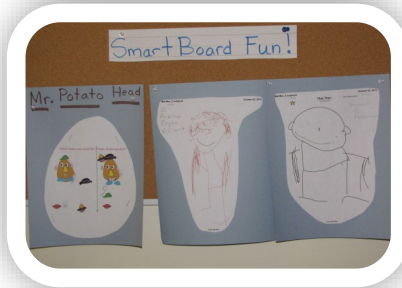
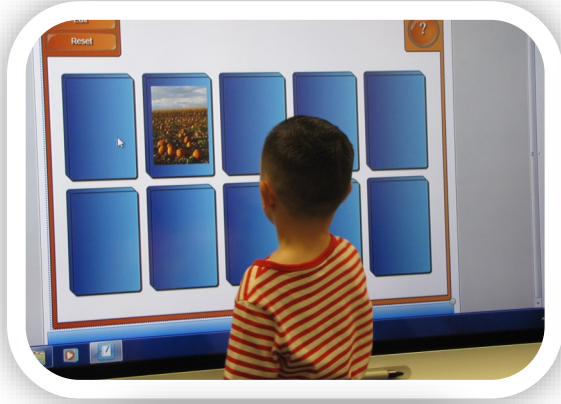


Assemblyman Steven Englebright, Senator John Flanagan
Dr. Marie E. Ficano and Chairman of the Board Vincent O'Leary
honoring Tritec's Coughlan Family, June 2005



Alternatives For Children East Setauket
Sound Garden Dedication with
Senator John Flanagan, Summer 2006

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
EXPANDING OUR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM



Students using smartboard & touch screen desktop computers to explore thematic lessons in our newly redesigned East Setauket Educational Technology Center. Skills acquired in the Ed Tech Center by the children are carried over into the classrooms. Classrooms at all four Alternatives For Children locations are equipped with smartboards, ipads, and desktop touchscreen computers. Technology is integrated into lesson plans by staff supporting growth in the acquisition of early pre-literacy and math skills. Learning & Moving Forward with the Help of Technology!

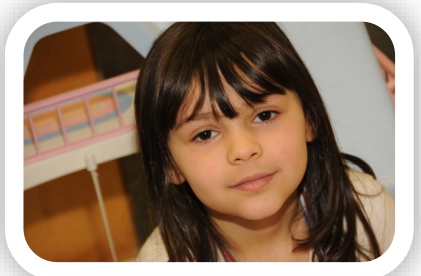
NEW DIX HILLS CHILD DAY CARE PROGRAM
FOR INCOME ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

Understanding that quality child care does indeed make a difference in the lives of children and their families, Alternatives For Children is committed to providing quality child care and making it available and affordable for families no matter what their income level.

Alternatives For Children Dix Hills is happy to announce that we have developed an agreement with the NYS-Suffolk County Department of Social Services to provide child care services for families that meet Department of Social Services income eligibility criteria.

Families in need of child care in the Dix Hills, Wyandanch, Huntington and the Huntington Quad area are encouraged to contact the Suffolk County Department of Social Services at 631-853-3666 to find out about income eligibility guidelines and how their child can receive quality child day care in an enriched educational program.

*Eligibility and approval determined by NYS Department of Social Services. Call NYS DSS at 631-853-3666 for information on eligibility and intake.



Making a Difference - One Child at a Time

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN CELEBRATES
OUR DEDICATED PHYSICAL THERAPISTS & PHYSICAL THERAPY MONTH

Every October the Physical Therapists at Alternatives For Children provide information for parents and families and in-service workshops for staff to celebrate National Physical Therapy Month.



The Physical Therapy staff at Alternatives For Children bring with them over 100 years of combined experience in pediatric Physical Therapy. Children with a wide variety of diagnoses and who exhibit gross motor delays benefit from the staff's compassion, dedication, and clinical expertise. Each therapist is licensed by New York State and participates in ongoing continuing education to further advance their knowledge and skills.

In October, our Physical Therapists presented workshops to staff at all four Alternatives For Children locations on how to prevent back pain and the safe transport of children. Understanding that four out of five adults will experience significant low back pain sometime during their life, our PT staff shared tips and techniques on how to avoid back injury and strengthen and maintain our "core" muscles.

Alternatives For Children's Physical Therapists - Making a Difference - One Child at a Time

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Since 1988, Alternatives For Children has been a leader in providing educational programs and therapeutic pediatric services to infants and children with special needs and their typically developing peers from throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties.

As Alternatives For Children continues to grow and expand our programs, we seek caring and compassionate individuals to join our dedicated team.

Explore our wide ranging employment opportunities. A fulfilling and rewarding career might be waiting for you!



Employment Opportunities
at Alternatives for Children

Our Locations

- Aquebogue
- East Setauket
- Dix Hills
- Southampton

Since 1988, Alternatives For Children has been a leader in providing educational programs and therapeutic pediatric services to infants and children with special needs and their typically developing peers from throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Full-Time and Part-Time positions are available

**Send Cover Letter and Resume to
annemrie.mongiardo@alternativesforchildren.org
631-331-6400 x152**

**Annemarie Mongiardo
14 Research Way
East Setauket, NY 11733**

DIX HILLS Current Openings
Special Education Preschool Paraprofessionals
Occupational Therapist
Teacher Assistants
1:1 Aides
Day Care Teacher Infant/Toddler Room
Day Care Teacher Assistant Infant/Toddler Room
Substitutes

SOUTHAMPTON Current Openings
Physical Therapist
1:1 Aides
Bilingual Speech Pathologist
Psychologist, Phd or PsyD
Substitutes

Visit our website for a full listing of openings
<http://www.alternatives4children.org/employment-opportunities.html>

Come Join our Winning Team!

**Please spread the word
to your family & friends**

We welcome resumes from subcontractors who are
Certified Minority or Women owned Business Enterprises
(Certified M/WBEs)

Alternatives For Children
19th Annual Classic & Sports Car Rally

MONACO SPONSOR

Competition Automotive Group
Competition Toyota of Middle Island
Competition BMW of Smithtown
Competition Infiniti of Smithtown
Competition Scion of Middle Island
Competition Subaru of Smithtown
Mercedes Benz of Huntington
Mercedes Benz of Smithtown
Sprinter of Smithtown
Heffernan Insurance Brokers
Toyota Dealer Matching Grant

DAYTONA SPONSOR

Baker Tilly

LIME ROCK SPONSOR

Chase Auto Finance
Rafael Llopiz
Fred & Sunny Mendelsohn

WATKINS GLEN SPONSOR

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STARTING LINE SPONSOR

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Solar Pool Enclosures of NY Inc.

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Sharon Bigin
Therese Blanton
Peter Bussacca
Patricia Coderre
Dr. Mark DiBenedetto
Susan Ennis
Dr. Marie Ficano
Wendy Jorgensen
Bob Lang
Jim Lynch
Ingrid Trouvé



Many Thanks to

Jim Buzzetta - Road Rally Chair
Our Rally Masters
Dr. Mark DiBenedetto & Jim Lynch
Drivers & Navigators
The Mercedes Benz Club
The Miata Club
Our Generous Sponsors
Our Big-Hearted Raffle Donors
Basket Raffle Donors
Anselm Lowe
those who purchased raffle tickets
Alternatives For Children Staff
our Wonderful Parents



Thanks for the Goodies
in our Swag Bags

Mercedes-Benz Financial



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
THANKS OUR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

During Fire Safety & Prevention month the children at all four Alternatives For Children locations were visited by firefighters from local volunteer Fire Departments. The children were taught the importance of not hiding from firefighters in an emergency, even though they might look a little bit scary. Children and teachers practiced Stop - Drop - Roll and learned about family fire exit plans and fire drills in school.



Thank you to these Fire Departments
Parent/Volunteer from Bethpage Fire Department
Jamesport Fire Department
Parent/Volunteer from Setauket Fire Department
Southampton Fire Department



Happy Holidays

from the Alternatives For Children Family to your Family!



and a Happy New Year Too!

SAVE THE DATE
11th Annual Golf Outing



Thursday, June 2, 2016
Huntington Crescent



You won't want to miss the opportunity to enjoy the challenge of this exclusive course

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
AFFINITY MEMBERS

Jim Buzzetta



Dr. & Mrs. Fred Mendelsohn

Mike Russell

Gordon M. Siess

Mark Senders

Victor Nelson

Thank You
to our
Affinity Members



Alternatives
For Children

14 Research Way
East Setauket, NY 11733
Phone 631-331-6400
www.alternativesforchildren.org

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SAVE THE DATE
11th Annual Golf Outing



Thursday, June 2, 2016
Huntington Crescent Club

Providing the highest quality special and regular education programs and services to children with disabilities and their typically developing peers.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN FALL FESTIVAL – THERAPEUTIC & SO MUCH FUN!
MANY THANKS TO OUR PSYCH/SW DEPARTMENT AND OUR OT, PT & SPEECH THERAPISTS

