



# ELIZABETH MASCIA CHILD CARE CENTER

**WINTER 2019**

## **OH, WHAT A NIGHT!**

As morning dawned on Thursday, November 15, we could not have anticipated what would transpire for the rest of the day. What was predicted by the forecasters the previous few days as a dusting to an inch or two of snow, turned into one fiasco after another.

Throughout the day, the forecast slowly started to change. I was out and about doing what I do as a director. First thing in the morning, I attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting at Open Door. The highlight of the meeting was to receive a 50th year anniversary recognition for the founding of the Elizabeth Marsha Child Care Center. At noon, I left for John Paulding Elementary School where I attended a meeting with the teachers at the UPK program. My last stop was at Tappan Hill to drop off the gorgeous centerpieces the children created for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, to be held that evening.



When I returned to the center, it was evident that the forecasters were wrong. At that time, we did not know how wrong. It was then I made a decision to close the center at 5:00 PM.

The snow began falling shortly after 2 o'clock, quickly and furiously, on freezing roads and sidewalks. While it was magical to watch the children as they watched the snowfall, we adults were justifiably concerned (to say the least).

Families began picking up the children at one o'clock. Most of the teachers who work in the local area were first to arrive to take the children home.

It was then the phone began ringing and it never did stop ringing until well after 9 o'clock that evening.

One phone call after another yielded parents in a new state of panic saying the roads were beyond congested, the trains were severely delayed, and it was impossible for the families to pick up their children by five.

Families scrambled to arrange with others to collect their children. Uber was nowhere to be found. At 5 o'clock, we still had 55 children at the Center.



Staff begin leaving at their scheduled times, but fortunately and thankfully, we still had plenty of staff around to help. For the most part children had a blast, the parents and staff, not so much.

The horror stories abounded: moms and dads walking to the Center from the Tarrytown train station, a mom walking from the train 1 ½ miles to home, a ten-minute drive from Regeneron took over four hours, the Saw Mill was at a standstill, as was the entire tristate region.

We served the children cheese and crackers, pretzels and goldfish. Most seemed unperturbed by the dilemma. A few dozed off.

Some of the very latecomers abandoned their vehicles at Short Street and walked uphill to collect their children. The last pickup arrived at 9:35.

All-in-all we weathered the storm, feeling exhausted the next day. We were fortunate in that no one was hurt or became ill. We were all able to get home that night, albeit at a very late hour.

My deepest appreciation to the staff who were able to stay until the very end.

## **POST-SCRIPT, GALA**

That evening, our Fiftieth Anniversary Gala followed “the show must go on mantra.” More than 100 attendees were expected. Only 24 were able to make it. Some walked. Some carpooled. Most turned their cars around and went home at their first opportunity, even before they left their neighborhood.

Despite all, the evening was highly successful thanks to the tireless work of the Gala committee and our most generous donors.

## **SECURITY UPDATE**

We have been revamping our security system. Security World is our partner for this endeavor.

We have installed a hallway camera, panic buttons in the classrooms and offices, and are embarking on a new key fob system. The current code will be disabled and entry to the building will be through your new key fob only.

This change is to insure the safety and security of the children, staff, families, and the building.

We will continue to update you with these new procedures.



## FALL HIGHLIGHTS

- Fours Trip to Barton’s Farm
- Neighborhood Walks
- Playground games
- Halloween Breakfast and Parade
- Dedication of the Firetruck in the Toddler Playground
- Baking muffins, cookies, gingerbread, banana bread
- Making applesauce
- After-School Yoga
- Reading with Ray
- Music with Delores
- Nature of Things
- Leapsmart
- Holiday Sing Along
- Science experiments
- Washing (doll) babies
- Three’s Tennis
- Fun with Magna Tiles
- All About Me Unit



## REMINDERS

### STAY & REMAIN HEALTHY

- Children must be fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours before returning to the center
- No vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to the center
- Heavy nasal discharge, rashes and general malaise must be checked out by your pediatrician
- Consider getting a flu shot



### Snow Days/Delays/Early Dismissals

#### Communications via:

*Text, email, message left on our answering machine, Cablevision Channel 12*

## We made our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Goal!

With tremendous thanks to the generosity of our donors, we achieved our goal of \$50,000.

An anonymous donor has matched the \$50,000 donations...

No words can ever express our deep appreciation for this amazing gift.

Thank you.