

# COMMUNITY

The Hour



Hour photo / MATTHEW VINCI

## Stations of the Cross restored at St. Ladislaus

Artists Elaine Check and Bela Szabo visit with Bishop William E. Lori and the Rev. Michael Bachman of St. Ladislaus Church during the recent ceremony following the restoration of the Stations of the Cross at the church. St. Ladislaus, located at 25 Cliff St., marked its 100th anniversary in 2007.

## NEF programs receive total of \$50,000 in gifts from area foundations

### NORWALK

Several area foundations have provided the Norwalk Education Foundation with a total of \$50,000 in funding to support its programs to improve education for Norwalk's 10,500 public schoolchildren.

Grants from GE Capital, the Perrin Family Foundation and Xerox Foundation will help fund teacher training, after school programs and other critical NEF services.

GE Capital granted NEF \$30,000 for its Teacher to Teacher and Technology Liaisons programs which educate and train teachers using the knowledge of the teachers themselves. The Teacher To Teacher program allows teachers to share best-practices through creative, hands-on, collaborative professional development workshops in such areas from data management and core curriculum, as well as innovative classroom programs. Tech Liaisons are qualified teachers or administrators in the schools who serve as an IT staff developer and troubleshooter allowing the Norwalk Public Schools Technology Department to have a hands-on presence in each of the 19 public schools.

NEF received \$15,000 from the Perrin Family Foundation for After the Bell, which operates at Kendall and Rowayton elementary schools. After the

Bell is an afterschool program of Norwalk public schools in partnership with the Norwalk Education Foundation and Child Guidance of Mid-Fairfield County. The program provides a high quality, academically enriching, and affordable before and after school program for students from all economic levels.

"The Perrin Family Foundation hopes that our longtime support will soon lead to a coordinated effort to provide uniform high quality after school programming for all of Norwalk's elementary schools," said Sheila Perrin of the Perrin Family Foundation, adding the foundation hopes that the After the Bell program can be replicated throughout the school system.

The Xerox Foundation has been a supporter of NEF for two years and recently awarded a \$5,000 grant to the organization.

"The foundation is a constructive advocate and catalyst for improving the quality of education in Norwalk and deserves the support of all who care about our schools. We are happy to play a small role," said Dr. Joseph M. Cahalan, president of Xerox Foundation.

The Norwalk Education Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization that provides programs and funds for innovative classroom instruction, teacher and technology training, and a variety of learning opportunities beyond the school day.

## FCA honors longtime board member

### NORWALK

Mary-Pat Cottrell received the Anne C. Cary Volunteerism Award from Family & Children's Agency at the organization's annual meeting in October.

The award honors FCA Advisory Board member Anne Cary, who has been a volunteer with the agency for almost 20 years.

Cottrell, senior vice president, corporate services at Union Savings Bank, has been an FCA Board member almost continuously for more than 25 years. She has been a member of every formal board committee during her tenure, helping to develop by-laws, risk management procedures, and other processes to support the service objectives of FCA.

Board member Kathleen Murphy, who presented the award, summarized Cottrell's association with FCA as "long-standing, diversified, eventful, and most successful," praising her as "a leader and a teacher."

"All who work with her are inspired and impressed with her pursuit of excellence, sage wisdom, and respect for the individual."



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Mary-Pat Cottrell, the 2009 recipient of Family & Children's Agency's Anne C. Cary Volunteerism Award, is congratulated by FCA President and CEO Rob Cashel.

Accepting the award, Cottrell noted the importance of teamwork, spirit and belief in achieving an organization's purpose, she expressed her conviction that these elements of success are important in both corporate and not-profit settings. In closing, Cottrell quoted Nobel Peace Prize winner Albert Schweitzer, who said, "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the ones among you who will be really happy are

those who have sought and found how to serve."

Family & Children's Agency is a nonprofit human service organization meeting the needs of more than 10,000 individuals - including children, adults, and families - throughout Fairfield County. For more information on FCA programs and services, visit [www.familyandchildrensagency.org](http://www.familyandchildrensagency.org) or call Family & Children's Agency at (203) 855-8765.

## Health centers given \$20,000 grant

### NORWALK

The Dr. Robert E. Appleby School Based Health Centers, a program of the Human Services Council, is the recipient of a \$20,000 grant from the Perrin Family Foundation.

The funding will support the continuation and expansion of medical and mental health-care services in the School Based Health Centers at Brien McMahon High School, Norwalk High School and Richard C. Briggs High School.

The centers provide accessible, high quality health care to students while school is in session regardless of ability to pay. The centers are the only organization in Norwalk that provides no out of pocket cost for any services as well as the only agency in Norwalk that provides on-site school based medical and mental health care.

For information on the health centers, visit [www.hscct.org](http://www.hscct.org) and/or call Rhonda Collins Capuano, at (203) 849-1111.

## Y reaches out to service members, families

### NORWALK

Service members and their families have been invited to participate in the Military Outreach Initiative at the Norwalk YMCA.

"Whenever military personnel are deployed on active duty, their families are faced with uncertainty and hardship," said Michael Case, lieutenant commander USN (Retired), and interim CEO of the Norwalk YMCA, "To help folks in this situation, the Department of Defense and YMCAs throughout the country have partnered to provide access to the many supportive, community-based services and health and wellness programs available at the local Y.

The Department of Defense

will underwrite six-month memberships at the Norwalk YMCA for each eligible family and service member with the opportunity for subsequent six-month membership renewals up to 18 months.

Active duty military families in all branches of the service including deployed National Guard and Reservists are eligible.

Membership at the Norwalk YMCA includes access to the Fitness Center, the two pools and diving well, participation in Teen Safe Haven Nights and Family Fun Nights plus free Spinning, Pilates Mat and Aquacise classes and more.

For more information about the Military Outreach Initiative, contact member services at (203) 866-4425 ext. 308.



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## NHS alumni to swing at oldies dance party

The Norwalk High School Alumni Association will hold its second annual Oldies Dance Party, featuring Dreamin' and the Royal Kings from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Nov. 14, at the American Legion Hall on County Street, Norwalk. All proceeds will benefit the Norwalk High School Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. No tickets will be sold at the door. To reserve a seat or table call Pat Tavella Maiaico at (203) 852-7256 or Pat Spinola at (203) 853-4413.

## SoundWaters to teach students about climate change

### STAMFORD

SoundWaters, an environmental educational organization, will lead an innovative program for Norwalk students designed to help them develop an understanding of climate change.

Students at George Washington Carver Community Center and Nathan Hale Middle School will participate in hands-on activities and experiments that demonstrate the causes and impacts of climate change both locally and globally.

The two programs,

designed to reach a total of about 45 students, were funded by NRG in Norwalk.

Each of the Climate Change programs will run for six weeks, meeting one hour once a week.

To better understand core concepts associated with climate change, students will learn how to make clouds in a jar, analyze simulated ice core samples to determine CO2 concentration, play an interactive game that demonstrates how climate change affects Connecticut, and identify actions that can help reduce greenhouse gases.

The sixth week will include a field trip to the NRG facility on Manresa Island in Norwalk. A team at NRG will explain the basic concepts of energy and electricity, how the power plant produces electricity and steps that are taken to minimize impact on the environment.

To schedule a visit to the Carver Community Center or Nathan Hale Middle School, contact Alisha Mullett, education director, (203) 406-3312.

For more information on SoundWaters education programs, visit [www.soundwaters.org](http://www.soundwaters.org)



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## The other white meat

Several turkeys walk through the property of Tony Ruggiero of New Canaan. Ruggiero has taken up a playful campaign to save the turkeys this year by posting a "Try Ham this year" sign in his backyard.

## CommunityNews

Submit community news by e-mail to [atnews@thehour.com](mailto:atnews@thehour.com), by fax to 840-1802 or to Community news, The Hour, 346 Main Ave., Norwalk CT 06851.