

## Meet Taylore...

As told to Karen Puritano, CMA's Director of Development

"I **know** I am lucky," Taylore says. "I am changing my whole life around. My previous life was high school and college. I'm living on my own now."

Meet Taylore. Taylore is one of CMA's newest residents. And while the past year has been one of transition, it is clear that Taylore is embracing her new life with CMA.

**"Being here at CMA – this is my new, adult life."**

There are many things that make Taylore an interesting and well-rounded young woman. She loves movies and books; she is inspired by poetry and music. The words **LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE** are artfully arranged on her walls; family photos, books and CD's are neatly scattered about. Her conversation is peppered with happy references of friends and of her family, with whom she is very close. Most importantly, Taylore has big dreams for her future...and is working towards making those dreams come true.



*Taylore, relaxing in her backyard*

"In five years I see myself living with one or two friends, maybe in a small house. And I would like to have a paid job as an assistant teacher." She smiles wryly. "What other job can you get where you can play all day long and not get in trouble?!"

Clearly, Taylore has a sense of humor – but her commitment to working with children is serious. Before moving into her new CMA home last fall, Taylore attended a residential boarding school for 10 years, where she studied child care and had an internship working with pre-school students as a teacher's aide.

"Right now, I volunteer at the Long Island Children's Museum. I like it a lot. I work with the school groups who visit. Some days I collect tickets and welcome visitors; other days I assist with tours, or work with the different exhibits."

Taylore continues, "My favorite times at the museum are "Inner-Lobby" times. This is when kids do hands-on crafts projects. It is really great to see the kid's imaginations and what it brings out."

"They love her at the museum," says Matthew Fayda, Taylore's house manager. "Her boss recently called to say that Taylore is an exemplary employee. She takes her job very seriously."

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# Thank You for the Many Creative Ways You Show us how Much You Care!

**CMA is grateful for the friends who go the extra mile to support us. Reaching out to others; providing an in-kind service; making important introductions; so many people do this and more to help us. Allow us to share a few examples where friends went “over and above” on our behalf...**

●●● Long-time friend **Mark Engel** has co-chaired CMA’s Golf & Tennis Tournament for 15 years. In December Mark reached out to colleagues and encouraged them to order holiday gift baskets from the Sweet Comfort Bakery & Café. Co-chair **Gerry Levy** did the same and their efforts resulted in 313 orders! Thanks to Mark, Gerry and the entire golf committee!

●●● Taking the holiday spirit one step further, **David Miller** of Webster Locksmith ordered more than 115 holiday gift baskets from the bakery! David shares, “*Finding a way to thank people with a beautiful product while helping a beautiful cause at the same time ~ there’s nothing better than that.*”

●●● Young Leadership Council co-chair **Danny Mickelson** recently relocated to Arizona to open Foa & Son’s Phoenix office. Good news for Danny, sad news for us...or so we thought! Danny vows to continue his support from afar — maintaining his role as YLC co-chair, and participating via conference call and email. Danny explains, “*CMA is a place filled with amazing men and women, both those that CMA supports and those that support CMA, and having the opportunity to be part of such an amazing organization by helping to raise awareness and support, is both an honor and a privilege.*” Danny shared that he and his wife have already booked flights to attend YLC’s highly anticipated Comedy Night on August 2.

●●● Friend and popular author **Susan Isaacs** recently donated a unique auction item to our annual “Celebration of Independence” fundraiser. Attendees bid for the chance to have a character named for them in Susan’s upcoming novel! You’ll have to buy Susan’s next book to see who won...!

●●● In December CMA held its annual Snowflake Ball, a party for the people living in our homes. Our dear friend and board member **Ossie Spector**, and her daughter, **Sara**, help decorate. **Maura Donnelly**, daughter of board member **Dave Donnelly**, also lent her artistic talents to this effort and the result was a silvery-snowy backdrop, perfect for dancing and celebrating!

●●● CMA board member and friend **Jim Romanelli** and his company, CNA, underwrote the expenses allowing the Sweet Comfort Bakery & Café to provide 900 gift boxes – filled with hand-made chocolate truffles – to attendees at the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation’s annual gala. Yumm!

●●● Ever wonder where all the great prizes at CMA events come from? Well, if you attended November’s “Celebration of Independence” many were obtained by our cherished friend **Vicki Imbarrato**. Thanks to Vicki, auction winners went home with gifts from Donna Karan, Michael Korrs, and NuBest – to name a few!

**For a complete list of the individuals, families, foundations and businesses who supported CMA in 2010, please visit our website at [www.communitymainstreaming.org](http://www.communitymainstreaming.org). Thank you!**

# The Sweet Comfort Bakery & Cafe Receives \$50,000 Grant from Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation

We are thrilled to announce that the Sweet Comfort Bakery & Café has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF). IICF is a grant-making foundation comprised of companies and employees in the insurance industry. The bakery was introduced to IICF by Lisa Tepper, Regional President for Travelers. Lisa, who serves on IICF's board of directors, attends CMA's annual golf outing and is a friend of longtime CMA board member, Gerry Levy, CEO of CBS Coverage Group.

"IICF is particularly interested in initiatives that have an impact in their community. Clearly, the Sweet Comfort Bakery & Café is making a significant difference in the lives of the people with developmental disabilities it serves," Ms. Tepper explains. "The bakery enables men and women with developmental disabilities to increase their learning, develop their job skills and build their confidence. And as a community-based service, visitors see first hand that everyone works together, each person contributing to the business. There is such a strong sense of "team" at the bakery. It is immediately evident how cohesively employees with special needs and those without work together to support and encourage one another. In addition to the need the bakery addresses for adults with developmental disabilities, it is also helping community members to appreciate and respect the differences of others. What an important message."

"We are very thankful to IICF for recognizing the impact our bakery has on mainstreaming people with



CMA Board Member Gerry Levy with Lisa Tepper

developmental disabilities," Gerry Levy shares. "IICF is effecting positive change with their grant awards and we are thankful they recognize the long-term value of the Sweet Comfort Bakery & Café and have embraced us in such a positive way. The people we serve deserve every opportunity to maximize their potential; with IICF by our side, the bakery helps its employees who have a developmental disability to learn and provides the support they need. **Our bakery employees make us proud every day, and we are delighted our friends at IICF are helping us to strengthen this important program.**"

To learn more about the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation, please visit [www.IICF.org](http://www.IICF.org).



## Special thanks to Glen Cove Cub Scout Pack #6!

These young men, led by scout master John Blazich and Den Leader's Steve McFadden and Joanie Thill, built an elevated garden for residents living in CMA's Glen Cove home. Our residents have long wanted to grow fresh herbs and vegetables – however, several have physical limitations that make kneeling uncomfortable. The Cub Scouts volunteered to build an "elevated" garden, donating the supplies and their time. The result is a beautiful garden that CMA residents can comfortably enjoy for many years to come! **Thank you to these very special young men!!**

# CMA's 2011 Annual Golf & Tennis Outing

**CMA's 2011 Golf & Tennis Tournament will go down in history as one of our most successful outings!** Thanks to the tireless efforts of our Golf & Tennis Committee – led by long-time co-chairs Mark Engel, Gerry Levy and Jerry Pinsky – our 2011 outing was attended by almost 400 people! WOW! Played over two dates in May, the outing was the perfect combination of good friends and devoted sponsors working together to raise money for CMA. **CBS Coverage Group was the event's premier sponsor, for the 7th year in a row!!** In a year when many non-profits are canceling their events, we are especially grateful for the support of CBS Coverage Group and all our event sponsors:

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*Event Co-chairs Mark Engel, Jerry Pinsky & Gerry Levy*

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*Thanks to our friends at CBS Coverage Group!*



*Tennis players, May 31, 2011*

This year we also honored two committed friends, Joe Caracappa, *Siera Consulting Group, Inc.*, and Lou Fuoco, *Fuoco Group*. "I am very honored to be a part of such a wonderful organization filled with so many inspirational men and women," Lou Fuoco shared. Joe Caracappa echoed Lou's sentiments, expressing his support for CMA and his gratitude for his family and the many friends who were on hand to cheer him on.

Other highlights included presentations by CMA residents Sarah and Ed, who spoke movingly about their lives living in a CMA home; and the presentation of the Bob Kipnes "High Gross" Award to CMA friends David Miller and Lisa Tepper.

Each year our tournament gets bigger and better. CMA extends our most sincere thanks to the many people who attended, volunteered and donated to our outing. **Most especially, we sincerely thank Mark Engel, Gerry Levy, Jerry Pinsky and the entire Golf & Tennis Tournament Planning Committee for working so hard on our behalf!**

Please visit our website to see all the photos both tournament dates, [www.communitymainstreaming.org](http://www.communitymainstreaming.org)!



Co-chair Gerry Levy presenting Honoree Lou Fuoco with an award



Joe Caracappa expresses his support for CMA and his thanks for friends and colleagues.



Paul Woldar and friends



CMA residents Allison, Gwen, John, Rhonda and Marianne get ready to greet the golfers!



Mark Engel presents David Miller with the Bob Kipnes High Gross Award



Gerry Levy presents Lisa Tepper with the Bob Kipnes High Gross Award



Sarah shares with the crowd how much living in a CMA home means to her



Thanks to our many sponsors!

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At home, May 2011

When she is not working, Taylor is focused on achieving goals in her personal life.

"I'm excited that I just completed my "Home Alone" goal," she explains. "Staff needs to know I am capable of handling emergencies or anything unexpected. I need to do this so I can live on my own one day."

Taylor, who grew up on Long Island, adds. "My dad always says that if I need them, they will come right over. My family lives 10 minutes away. But I know I can not always go running home."

Taylor's father, Dennis Barry, continues. "We are so fortunate that CMA found us. Now Taylor is in a place where she can continue her growth towards independence."

Pat Barry, Taylor's mother, shares, "After Taylor had been away at school for so many years, her first priority was to come back to Long Island where she could be closer to her family. Taylor is working hard to design a rewarding life filled with friendships and purpose. We are so proud of her can-do attitude!"

"Taylor is an absolute delight," says Heather Aylward, CMA's Director of Residential Services. "She is patient and excited to learn. She is a wonderful addition to the CMA family and we know there are great things in her future!"

As we go to print, Taylor has been living in her new CMA home for more than six months, and she admits that it has been an adjustment.

"Some days we (her housemates) have the greatest time together. Other days we have to work a bit harder to get along. You just can't let little things bother you."

Taylor spends her "down time" at home on the computer, watching movies, listening to music or talking on the phone with friends. She has completed the first two books in the *Twilight* series, and is looking forward to getting the next ones on tape. "I also like walking to the park down the road. And I love playing Wii — I like *Just Dance II*."

Taylor also speaks excitedly about a recent trip to the local amusement park, Adventure Island, taken with and residents from a neighboring CMA home. "It was a really nice experience! I can not WAIT to go back!"

As we ended our time together, I ask Taylor how she would sum up her first few months living in CMA's newest home.

Taylor thinks for a moment, and then smiles. "I think about a poem by Mattie Stepanek that I used to sing to my mom:

*Tomorrow's a new day  
Today's a new day  
Actually, everyday is a new day  
Thank you, God, for all these special new days\*."*

(\*Poem, "Thank You God for All These Special New Days" by Mattie Stepanek)



Taylor, at CMA's Annual Snowflake Ball, December 2010

## Ray Ellin joins CMA's Young Leadership Council

Friends who attended YLC's Comedy Night fundraiser the last several years may recognize his face. Longtime friend Ray Ellin has increased his commitment to CMA by joining our Young Leadership Council. While Ray has always been a friend, we are delighted to officially welcome him as a YLC committee member.

Ray Ellin is a well known featured performer in NYC's hottest comedy clubs and a regular weekend host at the world famous Comic Strip Live. He is the host of the talk show "LateNet," as well as the new "Gong Show Live." Ray is the producer/director of the 20th Century Fox film "The Latin Legends of Comedy," and is also the founder of the comedy-based social networking site DailyComedy.com.

Ray has been working with YLC over the years, and has greatly contributed to the success of Comedy Night. During that time, he became especially moved by CMA's mission.

"CMA is terrific organization that does important work. So when the opportunity to grow the fundraising event presented itself, I knew I could contribute to the process. Plus, I always enjoy the buffet."

Ray is currently working with YLC co-chairs Matt Engel and Danny Mickelson to plan CMA's 6th Annual Comedy Night, scheduled for August 2, 2011, at the Gotham Comedy Club. We are pleased to announce that Gilbert Gottfried stars as our headline comedienne; Ray Ellin will host the evening, which also includes performances by Nick DiPaolo, Greg Rogell & Chuck Nice. Watch for your invitation, or call Diana Guerin at 516-683-0710, ext. 203, for more information.

On behalf of the entire CMA family, we extend a warm welcome to Ray!



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## Charitable Bequests to CMA – A Meaningful Gift

A **charitable bequest** is the donation of money, property and/or personal belongings that is made by your estate, following your death, to your favorite charity. While such a gift can have a potential tax benefit to you and your loved ones, it is also one of the most meaningful gestures a donor can make. Bequests ensure that the donor's devotion to the charity is continued. CMA has enjoyed relationships with many friends for ten, twenty, *thirty* years or longer. Many are family members of the men and women CMA serves; others are members of our community who believe in our mission. Some donors are new friends; others have been by our side since our earliest days. Regardless, CMA is very fortunate to have such a devoted and committed constituency.

While charitable bequests to CMA are welcomed, it is important to note that it is less about the size or value of the bequest, and more about the donor's enduring commitment to CMA's mission.

Executive Director Julie Samkoff explains, "When people share that they would like to make a charitable bequest to

CMA, I am always moved. The process is not usually a complicated one, and we are always touched when someone thinks so highly of our work that they choose to honor us in this way."

One CMA family member recently shared, "CMA has been like a gift to our family. My parents and I are so grateful that my sister is happy and will be well cared for throughout her life, long after we are gone. We wanted to do something meaningful. A charitable bequest to CMA allows us to do that."

If you would like to learn more, please call Karen Puritano, Director of Development, at 516-683-0710 ext. 225.



# SAVE THE DATE



Young Leadership Council  
**PRESENTS**

## 6TH ANNUAL COMEDY NIGHT

Honoring Johnathan Lerner - Lerner, Arnold & Winston LLP  
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