



## **2010 Recognition Award Recipients**

**May 12, 2010**

### **2010 KELLY BEAUMONT MAZZARINI INCLUSION AWARD**

**Heidi Barberio**

**Recreation Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, Greater Waltham Arc**

Heidi has been instrumental in reaching out to the families in our community and providing recreation and leisure programs with supports provided by GWARC especially with the Recreation PLUS inclusion program. Rec PLUS is a partnership that includes organizations in Waltham and Newton: the Parks & Recreation Department, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, the Girls Scouts, and Best Buddies, and the Newton Parks & Recreation. Each summer many of our kids enjoy a week or two having fun at camp while learning new skills and seeing friends or making new ones. She is a supporter of our kids and shares her knowledge with others in the community so they may better understand and support children with special needs. Many kids have grown up with Heidi in their lives and have developed a bond with her made of trust and assurance. During the long days at camp Heidi is a source for comfort and understanding, and more importantly pride in all she has helped them accomplish in their camp experience. You can see it in the faces of the kids when they go under water for the first time in the pool, score a goal, or make a new friend. Heidi has proven that she is committed to the inclusion of children with special needs in after-school activities within Waltham. After all of her years of dedication, she still shows a passion for her work and a love of the children, camp counselors and families she has met. Heidi represents all that is good in Waltham. Heidi has done so much for so many families and it is with sincere gratitude we present her with the 2010 Kelly Beaumont Mazzarini Inclusion Award.

### **WSEPAC 2010 SHINING STAR AWARDS**

**Paula Alexander**

**Assistant Director of Special Education**

Regardless what the circumstance, Paula is always poised and professional. She always returns phone calls or email requests. She always makes it a point to ask how our children are doing and her ability to multitask is second to none. Paula should not only be recognized for everything she's done on a personal level, but for all she does to manage the Special Education Department. We are very fortunate to have Paula here in Waltham working on behalf of our children and families.

**Jeanne Aubert**

**Paraprofessional, Stanley Elementary School**

Jeanne is one of the most outstanding faculty members available in the Waltham Public Schools. She is genuinely looking out for all student's well being and has a gentle manner and a gift of communication to guide some of our more confused parents when things seem to go awry. Particular to this year, she worked and developed a strong bond with one of our more physical and challenging students to ease the various transitions the family was going through by maintaining open correspondence. There aren't enough words to describe the wonders of Jeanne. The easiest way to put it, Jeanne makes it easy to wake up and go to work in the mornings.

**Marina Paige Bartley**  
**(former) Director, Waltham Partnership for Youth, Inc.**

We are honoring Marina Paige Bartley tonight, and would like to take this opportunity to thank her for 11 years of leading the Waltham Partnership for Youth and for all the wonderful programs she created to serve the youth of Waltham, and for her support of the WSPAC. Under her leadership, WPY initiated or collaborated with other groups and organizations in the city to develop programs for local youths including the Waltham Family Literacy Coalition, and Mall Mania, which many of our Middle School children participate in and have learned to cook, grow gardens, and make robots in inclusive settings. Marina was instrumental in creating the Coalition for Healthy Students, which is made up of Waltham parents, community leaders, school officials, and social service agency representatives. One of the subcommittees addresses violent behaviors bullying and cyber-bullying and we are grateful that this is a priority item. Marina's many efforts have helped so many in the City of Waltham and wish her well in her retirement. We look forward to working with her successor Beth A. Toolan and having her come speak at one of our monthly meetings.

**Julie Czyzewski**  
**Speech and Language Pathologist**

Julie has been in the Waltham School System for many years and has spent time working in the Extended Year Program with the children in the PDD program. She is a wonderful person and the students love working with her. She is able to reach them and keep them interested in working on the goals they need to achieve. Somehow she just makes speech "FUN" and takes a genuine interest in her students. No matter where go and Julie's name happens to be mentioned, the response always seems to be the same – "Oh don't you just love her". She's simply the best. Julie is an outstanding therapist and supporter of Special Education in Waltham and we look forward to many more years of working with her.

**Kathleen Grady, M.Ed.**  
**LBL Program Teacher**

Nothing inspires a child like the skills, confidence and the support of a great teacher. Ms. Kathleen Grady, M.Ed, has been helping the children of Waltham unlock their potential as the lead teacher of the Language Based Learners Program at Henry Whittemore Elementary School. The program's goal is to improve the skills of children with specific language based disabilities, such as dyslexia. A specialist in the Orton-Gillingham method and a proponent of spiral teaching, Ms. Grady uses an interactive, hand-on method that engages students and parents alike. The heart of her motivation is to equip students with study skills and specialized learning systems that her students can use throughout their education. Ms. Grady is dedicated to this cause and continues to inspire, motivate and give children with language based needs, hope.

**Sarah Lanfranchi**  
**PDD Program Teacher**

We are also honoring Sarah Lanfranchi, a teacher in the PDD program at Stanley Elementary school. She is an extremely dedicated teacher to each and everyone of her students. She goes above and beyond what is required, with each of her students and their families, to provide the best education for her students. When parents ask "Who is your child's teacher?" and the response is "Sarah", you always hear many outstanding comments like "We loved her", "She is fabulous", "My child made so much progress in her class". Another testament to her character is the fact that the paraprofessionals in her program really enjoy working with her and want to be in her classroom! We all truly appreciate her dedication and commitment to her students and their families! We wish her many more successful years in the Waltham School System!

**Ray LeBlanc**  
**Coach, East Coast Jumbo's Special Needs Hockey Team**

The Jumbos include 24 players ages 8 to 26 from area towns. The program is designed to increase self-esteem through hockey as well as create a social network for the players, who have autism, Down syndrome and other learning disabilities that vary in severity. Mr. LeBlanc, who receives assistance from a staff that includes fellow Waltham firefighter Jimmy Perry and Trinity Catholic assistant coach Jay Francione, mentor a younger group of players who participate in a Learn-to-Skate practice at the start of each Sunday workout, and older group that concentrates more on skills for the second hour. Ray LeBlanc and his team are pillars in our community and are role models for the youths of tomorrow.

**Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy**  
**City of Waltham**

Mayor McCarthy has always been the Waltham special advisory council's "Champion". Since day one, she has attend all PAC meetings, listened to parents praise and concerns, provided us with guidance when we have nowhere else to turn to and has never turned us away when needing a lending ear. We look forward to collaborating with the Mayor, school committee and administration for years to come. And for that we thank her.

**Britta McNemar**  
**Director, Waltham Family School**

To many families in Waltham, Britta McNemar is the key to providing information essential in understanding and navigating our school system. This can be very challenging for a parent or guardian with a child who has special needs and would like to actively participate in their education, but there is a language barrier. Britta has made an effort to learn more about special education services and attends many of our monthly meetings to so she can provide information to help these families. When we were planning last year's event, Britta shared her story about Kelly Beaumont Mazzarine, and spoke that evening about Kelly inspired her to learn more about special education so she could help children at the Waltham Family School obtain services that would help them become successful in school. We are fortunate to have her support and look forward to working with her and the families she transitions to our welcoming group.

**Kim Scott**  
**Recreation Supervisor/Special Needs, Waltham Parks & Recreation**

Kim Scott is being recognized tonight for her work in creating and supporting programs in inclusive settings so children with special needs can have the same recreation and leisure opportunities as their peers. She has done an amazing job at helping children blossom by planning a variety of programs and activities to improve their self-esteem and self-confidence. The summer fun camp is a great way for kids to participate in sports, swim, play games, and enjoy nature in a safe environment. And the movie nights and after school activities are crowd pleasers. We are proud to present this award to a true innovator.

**Meg Timperi**  
**English Teacher, Kennedy Middle School**

Meg Timperi is a Special Education English teacher and is also the Special Education Liaison. Meg has rewritten chapters of social studies books so that students, who have lower reading levels, can access the curriculum. She is well respected by all the teachers and her approachable demeanor and dedication is so appreciated by all. Middle school can be very challenging but Meg has gone out of her way to meet the individual learning needs of her students. Thank you Meg for all that you do.

**Sherri Winter**  
**Pre-K Teacher, Stanley Elementary School**

Sherri always goes out of her way to assist new staff members within the PDD program. She is innovative in daily parent communication routines, has defined processes that help parents remain updated about assignments, curriculum and provides a day by day commentary. Although this doesn't seem unique to some, it is to me. In my opinion, no-one compares to Miss Winters. She goes above and beyond the call of duty.