



The Mental Health Foundation

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www.mentalhealthfoundation.net

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Mental Health Foundation Promotes Good Mental Health on August Evening in Saratoga

First Ladies Whitney and Cuomo make evening extra special

First Lady of Saratoga Marylou Whitney and former New York First Lady Matilda Cuomo greeted more than 150 attendees at the Mental Health Foundation's recent August Evening in Saratoga. The event took place at the Saratoga Reading Room on Wednesday evening August 13. The two first ladies served as Honorary Co-Chairs of the event. Mrs. Cuomo is a member of the Foundation Board.

Mrs. Whitney and her husband John Hendrickson presented the Foundation with a gift of \$20,000 at the event.

"It is wonderful for the Mental Health Foundation to have friends like Marylou Whitney and John Hendrickson," said Foundation Board President Stephen Madarasz. "Their grace, presence and generosity is without bounds and it seems so inadequate to simply say thank you. The Foundation is forever grateful to them."

"We are also grateful to Matilda Cuomo as well for all that she does on our behalf," Madarasz said. "She earned the respect and love of millions of New Yorkers through her tireless efforts on behalf of children and families during her time as New York's First Lady. She brings that same concern and passion to her role as a member of our board and we are all the better for it.

The program was an evening of jazz, good friends and a fabulous Silent Auction while helping deliver an important message about the importance of recognizing and treating mental illness without stigma.

Special guest Dr. Michael Orlosky, Regional Vice President of the East Region for Wellpoint's Behavioral Health division also offered the attendees some words of perspective and encouragement. Dr. Orlosky has studied, practiced and taught at some of the nation's leading schools and health care facilities and is a specialist in adolescent mental health.

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Among other dignitaries at the event were New York State Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Hogan, Michael Seereiter representing Governor David Paterson, New York State Assembly Republican leader James Tedisco, Albany County Comptroller Michael Connors and Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings.

The **Mental Health Foundation** has presented a range of successful events in recent years in its effort to promote better understanding about mental health, including a 2006 event with former First Lady Rosalynn Carter. The Foundation's annual **Paws for a Cause at the Plaza** each of the past two years has drawn tens of thousands of participants and helped celebrate the link between the animals in our lives and good mental health.

The Foundation's education work has included production of a series **Your Health in Mind**, which was presented in partnership with Time Warner Cable last year. The Foundation also recently presented grants for mental health related programs to the Troy New York YWCA and Families Together in New York State.

Music for **An August Evening in Saratoga** was provided by SOPRA – Annette Harris, vocalist and John Charles Cook, guitar.

Sponsors for the event included Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, The Times-Union, Capital District Physicians Health Plan, and CSEA.

To learn more about the Mental health Foundation and see photos of the event visit www.mentalhealthfoundation.net.