

# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



*Photo: Volunteers from Norwalk High, Staples High, NCC, HSBC, People's United Bank, GE Capital and others help put together and set up the walk.*

## **STAR's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual STAR Walk, Roll & Stroll Raises \$115,000 to Benefit Individuals With Developmental Disabilities**

June 3, 2010: About 800 people participated in the 5th Annual STAR Walk, Roll and Stroll on May 2 at Sherwood Island State Park in Westport, benefiting Mid-Fairfield County individuals with developmental disabilities, and their families. The event raised \$115,000.

The walk offered two path options (5K/3.1 miles and 1.6K/1 mile), and took participants through the Sherwood Island State Park pavilion along the West Beach and back, past the new Nature Center and along East Beach.

STAR's Executive Director Katie Banzhaf said, "STAR is very thankful for the generosity of our supporters and sponsors. They make our programs and services a reality."

The Bosworth Family of Wilton served as chairpersons for the walk this year. Honorary co-chairs were the Levy Family of Westport, the Piorkowski Family of Darien and the Taylor Family of Norwalk.

After the walk, participants listened to music, enjoyed lunch donated by SUBWAY, Stop & Shop, Whole Foods, PEPSI and Fresh Market, and participated in family activities such as face painting, crafts and demonstrations by area groups including the Norwalk YMCA, Norwalk Boy Scouts, Darien Nature Center, Bridgeport Sound Tigers (Storm) and musical performances from Rubberband, King For A Day and Alisonne Music.

STAR offers a full range of programs for individuals of all ages throughout Norwalk, Westport, Weston, Wilton, Darien and New Canaan. Starting with STAR's Rubino Family Center, STAR assists families and individuals with developmental disabilities throughout their lives--with school, advocacy and transitional (school-to-work or training) programs, job training and placement, residential services, respite care, recreational activities, and transportation to appointments and daily activities.

Sponsors for the event include: RBS Sempra Commodities, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Bulkeley Foundation, People's United Bank, Northrop Grumman, Gen Re, Fairfield County Bank, Pepperidge Farm, Patriot National Bank, Fairfield County Bank, Sam's Club, MBI, Arch Chemical, Wal-Mart, Bank of New Canaan, Kirwan Skin Clinic, RCS, Prospect Hill Foundation, the Levy Family, Rick Levin, Arnold Penner, the Danaher Family, the Herbst Family, the Bosworth Family, Ben and Judy Hoffman, the Harrington-Howes family, Wilton Bank, Laura Blair, Deborah Hodes, Ernest and Cecelia Teitell, Cohen and Wolf, McLaughlin Foundation, Cohen and Wolf and Community Services Fund of CWA Southern CT. In-Kind Sponsors include SUBWAY, Miggs B Design, Whole Foods Westport, Bigelow Tea, Friar's Club, Trader Joe, Fresh Market, Pirate's Bounty, PEPSI, New York Bakery, Yumnuts, Michael Joseph's Catering, Bigelow Tea, PCI Group, Sharp Performance USA, Village Bagels and Nice N Fresh Bakery.

Volunteer groups for the event represented Norwalk High School, Staples High School, Norwalk Community College, People's United Bank, and GE Capital.

STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way is a not-for-profit organization serving individuals of all ages with developmental disabilities, as well as providing support services to their families. We create opportunities for individuals to live full lives with independence, freedom of choice and personal growth by providing support, services and advocacy. We inform and encourage the community to recognize and appreciate the value of all individuals.

For additional information about STAR, call 203-846-9581 or visit STAR's website at <http://www.starinc-online.org>, Twitter page at **STAR\_Inc\_** and Facebook Fan Page titled **STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way...**

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