



www.starinc-lightingtheway.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way
Seeks Business Sponsors for GALA**

August 7, 2009: STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way... encourages local businesses to support infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities in Southwestern Fairfield County by becoming sponsors of the 8th Annual Galaxy of STARS Dinner Dance and Auction.

The event, which raises funds for STAR's programs throughout Southwestern Fairfield County, will be held at Woodway Country Club in Darien on November 14, 2009 and will include dinner, dancing and a live auction. The event celebrates the STAR community, including participants as well as their families, friends and supporters—drawing attention to the full, productive and rewarding lives they lead--filled with friendships, loving family relationships, productive employment or volunteer work and community activities.

Sponsorships for the event benefit STAR's programs and services, which include: childhood early intervention services and birth-to-three programs, physical and occupational therapies for infants and children, social services, assistive technology and referrals, respite services, recreational and social programs for adults, employment training and opportunities, school-to-work transition programs, family and community services, assistance with daily activities, senior services, transportation and support for independent living in STAR's group homes, cluster apartments, and supported living arrangements.

Joe Viesta, owner of Michael Joseph's Catering in Darien, has been integral to the planning of the event since it's inception in 2002. Viesta says: "This year, the demand for STAR services is greater than it has ever been—and support from our community sponsors is more critical than ever. We count on local businesses, corporation and philanthropically-minded individuals and hope they recognize our growing needs. Their sponsorships help STAR meet the growing needs of people with developmental disabilities throughout Southwestern Fairfield County."

Sponsors earn a maximum return on their contribution(s). The sponsorship is acknowledged in marketing and publicity materials for the event, and the initial gift helps ensure a proportionate return of additional donations brought in by the event. For information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Mike Petell, Director of Development at mpetell@starinonline.com or visit <http://www.starinc-lightingtheway.org/starpages/galaxysponsorships.html>.

The McLaughlin Foundation, Jason and Janie Konidaris, and Annie Konidaris are lead sponsors of the event, which is also sponsored by Cox Radio: 97.9 The FOX. The committee for the event to date includes Joseph and Nella Viesta of Darien, Bill and Ann Scheffler of Westport, John Masanotti and Mary Ferrara of Darien, Paul and Brenda Breitenbach of Wilton, Rob and Meghan Cioffi of New Canaan, Joan Dionne of New Canaan, and John and Polly Lowman of Darien. Details of sponsorship are available at: <http://www.starinc-lightingtheway.org/starpages/galaxysponsorships.html>.

STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way is a not-for-profit organization serving infants, children and adults 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 the Eighth Annual Galaxy of STARs Gala Dinner Dance & Auction, please contact Michael Petell at (203) 846-9581 or mpetell@starinonline.com. You can also learn more by visiting STAR's website at www.starinc-lightingtheway.org.

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