

Message from the Founders

Dear Friends,

I would like to wish you all a happy New Year in 2007. This year is going to be a very big year for **A Caring Hand, The Billy Esposito Foundation** (ACH); as we are working towards opening the first free-standing comprehensive bereavement center in Manhattan, the **A Caring Hand, Billy Esposito Bereavement Center**. The

Center will help children deal with the death of a caregiver while helping the whole family adjust to a life filled with change. We have been able to make a difference in many children's lives since the beginning of our Foundation and we hope that this will serve to greatly expand our efforts and allow us to affect more children in need.

Our fifth annual fundraising gala, **Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan**, will be held on May 3, 2007 at the **Hammerstein Ballroom**. Proceeds from this gala will fund the Bereavement Center and provide children in the Manhattan area with innovative bereavement counseling and support for years to come. Our gala is certain to be a wonderful evening filled with fine cuisine, beverages, live music and friends – not to mention plenty of great opportunities to donate to our cause through auctions and a sweepstakes. We have had enormous success at past events and I hope that you will join us again this year.

I look forward to seeing you at the gala and please feel free to invite your family, friends and colleagues. I encourage you to support us on our new journey as we help change the lives of so many through the Bereavement Center.

Sincerely,
Susan Esposito-Lombardo
Founder
A Caring Hand,
The Billy Esposito Foundation



[from L] Sara Roter, Event Committee member, poses with Susan Esposito-Lombardo, Founder and President of ACH, and Randi Pettas, Event Committee member, at Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan.



[from L] Board of Directors members Michael Lubman, Craig Esposito and Tara Abrahms.

Save the Date! ACH's Annual Fundraising Gala, Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan, Returns for its Fifth Year

We are excited to announce our fifth annual fundraising gala, **Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan**, on Thursday, May 3, 2007 at the Hammerstein Ballroom from 6:00 PM -10:00 PM. This gala will feature cuisine and cocktails from some of New York's finest restaurants and beverage companies. *Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan* will also feature live music and a live and silent auction consisting of fantastic prizes including vacations, sports memorabilia, spa packages and much more!

As we approach the fifth anniversary of this gala which has brought us so many memories and provided funding for wonderful programs for children around the world, we find it to be a great opportunity to remember



[from R] ACH Founder and President, Susan Esposito-Lombardo; ACH Board of Directors member, Craig Esposito and Honorary Board of Directors member, Edith Lutnick, Esq. address the audience at Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan.

Tangible Change through Innovative Programs – The A Caring Hand, Billy Esposito Bereavement Center

ACH is planning to open a long needed free-standing, comprehensive bereavement center in New York City. The goal is to meet a child and family's needs in a caring environment. The program will focus on remembering, coping, and community building - the essential components of grief work.

It is hoped that all children and teens have a life filled with joy and happiness. Yet for some, their lives are forever changed at a young age when they experience the unfortunate death of a significant person from disasters such as fire, illnesses such as cancer, or human acts of violence. Following a death there is often sadness, confusion, isolation, guilt, or even shame. For some young people, grief left unaddressed can lead to hopelessness, acting out, and poor school performance. No child or family should feel they are alone in their grief or face the challenge of life alone without a cherished loved one.

The inaugural program at the Center will provide services for children and teens whose primary caregiver has died. Future programs will help parents and children who are dealing with the death of children, siblings, extended family members and friends.

The new Center will need help from all sectors of New York City to bring much needed services to the bereaved families in their midst. The program is being developed by, and requires the true partnership of, professionals and volunteers from the public as well as private and corporate communities.

The program components include:

- Outreach to individuals, schools, and organizations to provide information about services and recruitment of clients and group leaders;
- Education, training, and consultation to professionals and providers about grief and bereavement;
- Evaluation of bereaved individuals to assess how best to meet their needs;
- Eight week peer group support program for children and teens and their caregivers. The program will be curriculum based on common bereavement tasks and co-facilitated by trained volunteers and mental health professionals;
- Individualized services and referrals to meet additional needs of family members;
- Volunteer training and supervision for group facilitators; and
- Professional supervision and training of mental health trainees.

and share why we originally decided to title our fundraising gala *“Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan.”* It is no secret to some who have participated in the past that this gala showcases some of the finest restaurants and beverage companies in Manhattan in a tasting-style design that allows people in attendance to sample the great cuisine New York City has to offer. In this way, our donors are treated to “a taste of the perfect Manhattan.”

What some of you may not know, however, is that Billy Esposito's favorite drink was the Perfect Manhattan cocktail. It always had to be made in just the right way and he was happy to order it again if need be. It was an endearing characteristic of the husband, father, relative and friend we all knew well and missed so much when we lost him on September 11th. After his passing, we felt like we wanted to have just a few more minutes with him – perhaps to share one last perfectly made Perfect Manhattan cocktail. So, it is with this spirit each year that we host *Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan* to raise funds to support his legacy. We are so proud to present the fifth gala produced in Billy's memory and invite you to join us in sharing *Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan* in the spirit of Billy Esposito.

Proceeds from *Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan* will enable ACH to open Manhattan's very first free-standing comprehensive bereavement center in the near future, so remember to save the date and join us in supporting a great cause on this special night.

Volunteer Spotlight

In this issue, **Nicole Dina** is our Volunteer in the Spotlight. Nicole has gone above and beyond her duties as a new member of our Board of Directors and truly exemplifies the qualities a Foundation looks for when working with volunteers. We had a chance to catch up with Nicole this winter and she filled us in, below, on her involvement with ACH and more.

My name is Nicole Dina and I became a member of ACH after the events of 9/11. I had previously been a volunteer through my work at **Ground Zero**. During this experience, I met so many amazing people that were in search of their loved ones and it made me want to do something more. My dad was in the first **World Trade Center** bombing, and barely missed the second one because he happened to be late for a meeting, so this volunteer effort particularly tore at my heart. I learned about ACH through the internet and it stood out to me because of its focus on children. I could not imagine having lost my father at that moment and knew I wanted to become involved in ACH.

After realizing that I wanted to be a part of ACH, I became a member of the Board of Directors. Soon after, I became involved in coordinating the annual fundraising gala. I am proud to say that we plan to open the ACH Bereavement Center in New York in the near future. With funding the Center in mind, this year's annual gala will be on a much higher scale than in the past. I am focused on getting the best of the best for the tasting event and we plan to raise more than \$600,000. It's a big number but I believe it's important to aim high.

On a personal note, I am 33 years-old and I began my professional career by attending **Fashion Institute of Technology**. After my summer internship program at Armani



[from R] Board of Directors member, Nicole Dina and friends at Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

—Anne Frank

We are currently raising funds to support the **A Caring Hand, Billy Esposito Bereavement Center**. We are going to need everyone to join together to support this initiative and hope that you will consider donating your time or money to this cause. We would be honored if you made a donation today and happy to have you as a growing member of our team.

—A Caring Hand

I have been affected by the death of a loved one at a young age.
___ Yes ___ No

___ I would like to make a donation. I have enclosed a check in the amount of \$_____ made out to A Caring Hand.

___ I would like to make a donation by credit card in the amount of \$_____. I have listed my credit card information below.

___ I would like to buy _____brick(s) to be donated to the construction of the Bereavement Center. Each brick costs \$1,000.

___ My company has a matching program.

___ I would like to volunteer for this Foundation. Please contact me so that we can work together to find the best way for me to help ACH.

___ Please send this newsletter to a friend of mine. His/Her contact information is:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Your Contact and Payment Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Credit Card Name: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please enclose this form in a stamped envelope and send to:
A Caring Hand, The Billy Esposito Foundation
c/o Powered by Professionals
1375 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10018

You can also make a donation on-line. Please visit our website at www.acaringhand.org.

A Caring Hand is a not-for-profit public charity recognized by the IRS under 501 (c) (3).

A CARING HAND, THE BILLY ESPOSITO FOUNDATION VOLUNTEERS

Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
—Margaret Mead

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Jeremy Sessler

Dara Shalom

Victor Shalom

Stephanie Sheperis

Jacquelyn Sherry

Nancy Shurka

Jennifer Signorelli

Brian Smith

Jerrold Son

Lauren Taylor

Jillian Teta

Bob Weinstein

Jackie Weinstein

Ellie Winkleman

Exchange in their corporate office I loved it so much that I stayed on and joined the Visual Display & Merchandising Team. I've learned valuable life lessons working in corporate America and have always positioned myself around people that were willing to teach and from whom I was able to learn. I've worked in the fashion industry in visual display for **Armani Exchange** and **Nautica**. I also briefly worked in marketing. Finally, I have changed courses a bit and over the past six years I have been working for a major financial institution. I've worked mainly in Client Relationship Management in Fixed Income and have recently moved to Global Diversity and Inclusion where I manage the Americas Women's Network, US Parents Network and many outside relationships.

I love children and I tend to spend most of my free time volunteering with different organizations through work. I was fortunate to have so much as a child and if I can give back a small percentage of that privilege to those less fortunate, I am content. Outside of volunteering, I love planning events. Big or small, it's completely enjoyable to create something special. Eventually, I would love to start my own business.

Through my volunteer experience with ACH, I have learned that life is not about receiving, but about giving. I feel a great sense of fulfillment when I volunteer and give back to the community. Children are innocent human beings and it is traumatic for them to endure the pain caused by the loss of a parent. To be able to relieve a small portion of their stress and put a smile back on their face is completely fulfilling.

I am new to ACH and look forward to creating and being a part of some wonderful memories. This is a very exciting year and the beginning of a great endeavor by ACH. It's all in the making!



Board of Directors member Stevie Esposito and Advisory Board member Marty Pelcyger enjoy Another Taste of the Perfect Manhattan.

Special Thanks

ACH is moving full steam ahead to open the A Caring Hand, Billy Esposito Bereavement Center in Manhattan. Over the last several months a select group from our Board of Directors has been working very hard to build the foundation for the Center.

We would like to give a special thank you to **Howard Meltzer** and **Michael Lubman** who have been handling the legal and financial aspects of the Center. **Ann Marie Gentile** and **Jennifer Nyp** have been handling the public relations and marketing for the Center and we could not have made it this far without their help and expertise. **Glen Albanese** has been helping us with the real estate piece and last, but definitely not least **Susan Esposito- Lombardo**, **Dr. Robin Goodman** and **Dr. Justine Golden** have been working to develop the programs and structure of the Center.

These very special Board members have given so much of their time week after week to get this project off the ground. They have all helped transform this vision into a reality and, more importantly, are helping to change the lives of so many while making history in Manhattan. ACH is truly grateful to each and every one of you. Thank you!



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www.acaringhand.org