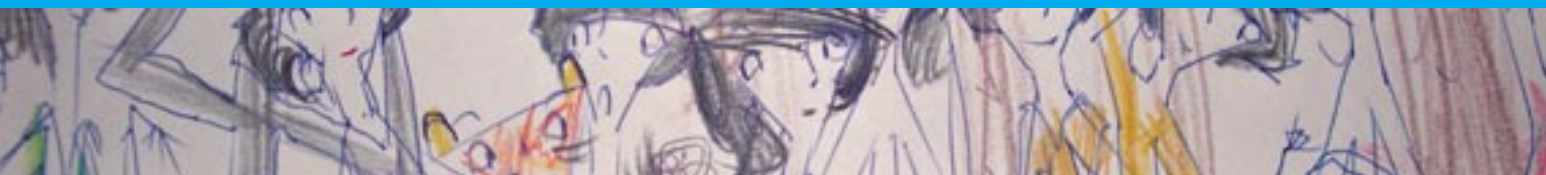
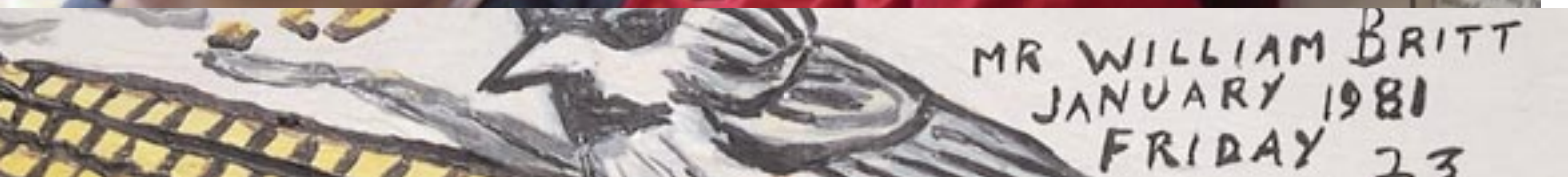
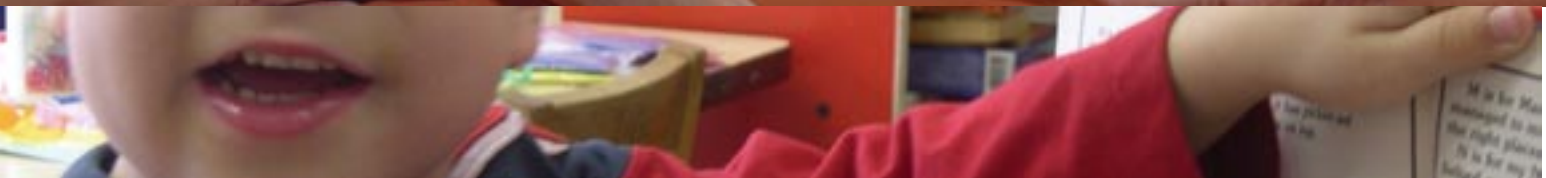


THE SHIELD INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT 2005





The **SHIELD** *Institute*

Educating and Supporting New Yorkers with Developmental Disabilities

Our mission: To work in partnership with families and communities to enable children and adults with developmental disabilities to lead meaningful lives.

Working “Small” in a Complex World

For nearly 85 years, The Shield’s mission has been shaped by changing needs. We began in 1921 as a small home for orphaned Jewish girls. Over the years our work has had less to do with “shielding” the vulnerable from harm...and more to do with equipping people to realize the kind of lives they want to lead.

Today our focus is on fostering each individual’s independence as a full-fledged member of his or her family and community and actively collaborating in families’ life-long efforts to provide rich lives for their children. We are proud to dedicate this report to these families.

We’re encouraging people to lead fully integrated lives within their own communities.

While our roots are in the Jewish community, The Shield of David (our incorporated name) has long served as a non-sectarian human service agency, whose unionized staff and consumers are widely representative of New York City’s racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity. Our staff of over 400 serves nearly 2,000 people.

Although the scope and importance of our work has always been large, we have done our best to remain small—in size, that is. In today’s “bigger is better” world, in which services are increasingly concentrated in fewer hands and globalization speeds ahead with a one-size-fits-all approach, human service providers who can meet individuals’ needs—one person at a time—have grown even scarcer.



Dr. Karen Birnbaum and Dr. Susan Provenzano. Photo by Amy Stein.

Resembling a lithe David who can swiftly out-foot a towering Goliath, The Shield’s size remains one of our greatest assets. Although we are also interested in growing, managing and focusing this growth to best serve everyone is what is most important to us.

The Shield is working to create new paths through which people with disabilities can gain skills, develop their unique talents, and experience success. Our *Community Jobs Network*, for example, prepares teenaged students for gratifying adult work roles in their communities. Students learn by getting...and keeping... real, paying jobs through which they discover their interests and gain early job experience. In a recent article in *Newsday* (see page 11) headlined “The Shield Institute helps disabled people be part of society,” Linda Hickson, a Columbia University professor, says: “There needs to be more places (like The Shield) because it is so empowering for people with disabilities to earn paychecks.”

We have also taken a leadership role in enabling adults to draw upon the fine arts to express themselves, contribute to the culture at large, and earn for themselves.

Our Pure Vision Arts (PVA) studio and gallery, featured on page 7, is helping accomplished and emerging artists and artisans with disabilities find entrepreneurial support and affirmation in a beautiful, loft space located in the heart of Chelsea.

Our small size remains one of our greatest assets.

We invite you to visit us, learn more about our work, and become involved. For The Shield to remain a “small” yet forceful agency for innovation and change we need new friends and supporters...With you by our side, we can make an even greater difference in the lives of New Yorkers with developmental disabilities.♥

Susan Provenzano, Ed.D. Karen Birnbaum, Ed.D.
Executive Director *Associate Executive Director*



Young students enjoy festivities at the Bronx Early Learning Center. Photos by Amy Stein.

Learning through Work and Play



Dr. Carole Gothelf

We all know people who have surmounted enormous obstacles to make remarkable gains and realize major achievements. As human service advocates, parents, and allies of people with developmental disabilities, we understand that sheer will, by itself, does not take the place of opportunity and the need for support.

Sheer will, by itself, does not take the place of opportunity.

Even our best ideas or greatest dreams are not sufficient to advance a person's progress. To make any sort of real human prosperity possible, people require steady access to an adequate level of support within their schools, communities, families, and workplaces.

Without bona fide educational opportunities throughout the school years, young people cannot be expected to succeed in, or outside, their classrooms. If they are to find success in the workplace they need meaningful, appropriately compensated employment opportunities rooted in solid economics, not charity. For adults to continue pursuing their interests and developing new skills, they must be supported and encouraged.

To make any sort of real human prosperity possible, people require support.

The three stories that follow speak to the progress of our young students and adults as they find the resources and experiences to develop the skills and proficiencies key to leading productive, meaningful, and joyful lives.♥

Carole Gothelf, Ed.D.
*Assistant Executive Director
of Programs and Services*



Photo by Joseph Gordon

Caps! Caps for Sale! \$12 a Cap!

Tito Rivera, 37, has a love of business as well as a way to satisfy it. He sells caps.

While his annual sales may be small, the tiny micro-business he operates from his battery-powered wheelchair gives this native New Yorker something more important than money: Selling caps allows him to participate in the community.

Neatly posted on the wall in the makeshift office space set aside for him at the Manhattan Center on East 107th Street is a collage portraying a handsome man in a dark business suit. He carries attaché cases in each hand while accompanied by a lovely woman dressed for



Photo by Bryant Yarbrough

Photo by Amy Stein



Painter James De La Vega has helped Tito Rivera achieve his dream of working. *Photo by Amy Stein.*



Through assistive technology, Tito Rivera is able to relate to customers who are interested in buying caps from him.

success. Those who know Tito recognize his vision in the proud, dynamic couple moving quickly past buildings brushing the Manhattan sky.

Tito has a lot of dreams and desires.

“Tito has a lot of dreams and desires,” says Peter Dabo, his group leader at The Shield. Peter says Tito’s other interests include listening to Latin and pop music, wearing tailored suits, and “anything having to do with the New York City Police Department.” Tito loves cops, he explains in his soft African-accented English.

Selling caps allows him to participate in the community.

Assistive technology has helped Tito to move past many barriers. Though non-ambulatory and non-verbal, he can steer his power wheelchair with the use of a small control on the arm rest; and he can communicate through a small computer with a speaker that projects an artificial voice. With the help of his assistive technology and an indomitable spirit, Tito is able to sell baseball caps

to strangers. The hats, with bold inscriptions stitched onto their fronts, are created by James De La Vega, an East Harlem artist. De La Vega says he’s happy to have Tito as a salesman. “We have to do things together and for one another,” says De La Vega, a college-trained fine artist, whose murals, sidewalk art, and studio drawings include vibrant celebrations of the people of East Harlem.

Those who know Tito recognize his vision.

On a recent day, Tito made a quick sale. Ably communicating through his Dynavox, a thin computer programmed with various phrases, explanations, questions, and short requests, he offered his customer choices. With his right index finger, his only flexible one, he gracefully touched its command squares to make clear a set of pre-recorded sales options:

“T-shirts come in three sizes, small, medium, and large.”

“Caps are black, one size fits all.”

As he awaited a reply, his slender face lit up with a radiant smile. Through his engaging, deep-set brown eyes, he exuded a sense of delight as he offered the cap. The customer said it looked great and that he was delighted to have a piece of headwear promoting an idea, a dream, rather than a beer brand or other commercial product. For \$12 he got a nice black De La Vega cap from a micro-businessman whose dreams brush the sky.♥

Playing with Language

On a recent morning in March as Angela Mora's pre-school class finished their lesson on weather, five-year-old Sebastian Abella, a boy with developmental delays, whisked around the classroom, paper rainbow in hand, gleefully calling out, "Woosh, woosh, I'm Mr. Wind." His animated words were nothing less than remarkable.

Just two years ago, Sebastian's social and language difficulties were painfully apparent to his mother, Eleanora Catalan, who wondered whether her energetic son, then age three, would ever develop language or show an interest in playing with other children. Thanks to her efforts and those of Sebastian's committed teachers and therapists, he has blossomed from a solitary, non-verbal little boy into a playful, sociable pre-schooler.

Sebastian's mother wondered whether her energetic son, then age three, would ever develop language.

Sebastian, who understands English and Spanish, is developing a growing repertoire of linguistic and social skills. To meet him is to be captivated by his toothy

smile and large brown eyes. But what's most striking to those who've followed his progress is how far he's come in being able to express himself through words and play.

Sometimes he will simply say "eso" or "that one," and point to a toy or book he wants. Other times, he'll tell you more; and he now eagerly plays with other children.

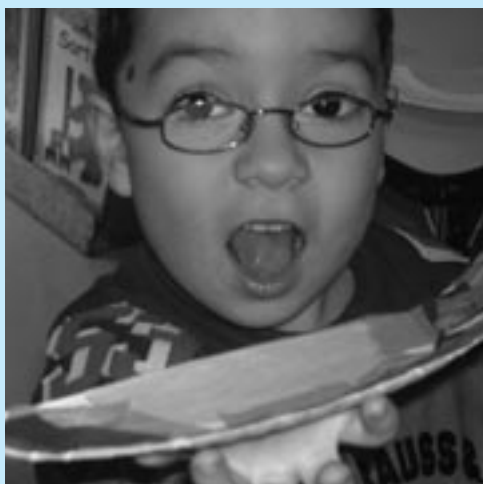
"He uses expressive language and has a sense of humor," says Mary McKillop, supervisor of speech and language programs, adding: "That's what we want all children to have."

Speech therapist Jaime Restrepo who works with Sebastian exclusively in Spanish, his first language, says he's gone from not having any speech, to speaking in three to four word phrases.

"He really enjoys his role playing, which is so important to his growing language acquisition," he explains, elatedly noting the five year old's forward flow along the developmental continuum.

Sebastian's silence and isolation have faded.

As Sebastian's silence and isolation have faded, so have his mother's fears about his development. "I am very grateful that we caught his problem early and that the teachers and therapists at The Shield have worked so hard and so patiently to help my son," says Eleanora Catalan. As she prepares for his graduation from The Shield's pre-school to a kindergarten class in his local public school, Sebastian's growing language and social skills offer her reassurance that he'll do well.♥



Photos by Victoria Reing and Jaime Restrepo



Paul Molina's passion for sneakers has helped him develop new skills through a job he enjoys. *Photo by Amy Stein*



photo by Bryant Yarborough

A Man for All Sneakers

Walk into Modell's Sporting Goods store in Elmhurst, Queens on a weekday morning and you may find Paul Molina working in one of his favorite roles: assisting customers searching for new sneakers. Paul, a full-time student at the Flushing Center, likes his part-time job and the uniform that goes with it.

A tall teenager who loves rap music and sports, Paul's efforts in the busy store are greatly valued by Modell's—which makes this working relationship a win-win situation. Could there be a better job for a young man with a passion for sneakers?

Work presents a social challenge that Paul finds motivating.

With support from Joshua Skolnick, The Shield's Coordinator of Person Centered Planning Services; Jessica Woods, an employment specialist; and Paul's job coach, Doris Vega-Mancero, the 18-year-old has made enormous strides. He's developed confidence-building skills over the past three years while learning the ropes in stores like Burger King and Old Navy. And through these experiences, he's discovered the work roles he likes the most.

Paul, who lives in Manhattan with his parents and brother Francisco, came to The Shield three years ago. Extremely shy and sometimes appearing withdrawn, Paul has gradually developed a growing sense of confidence.

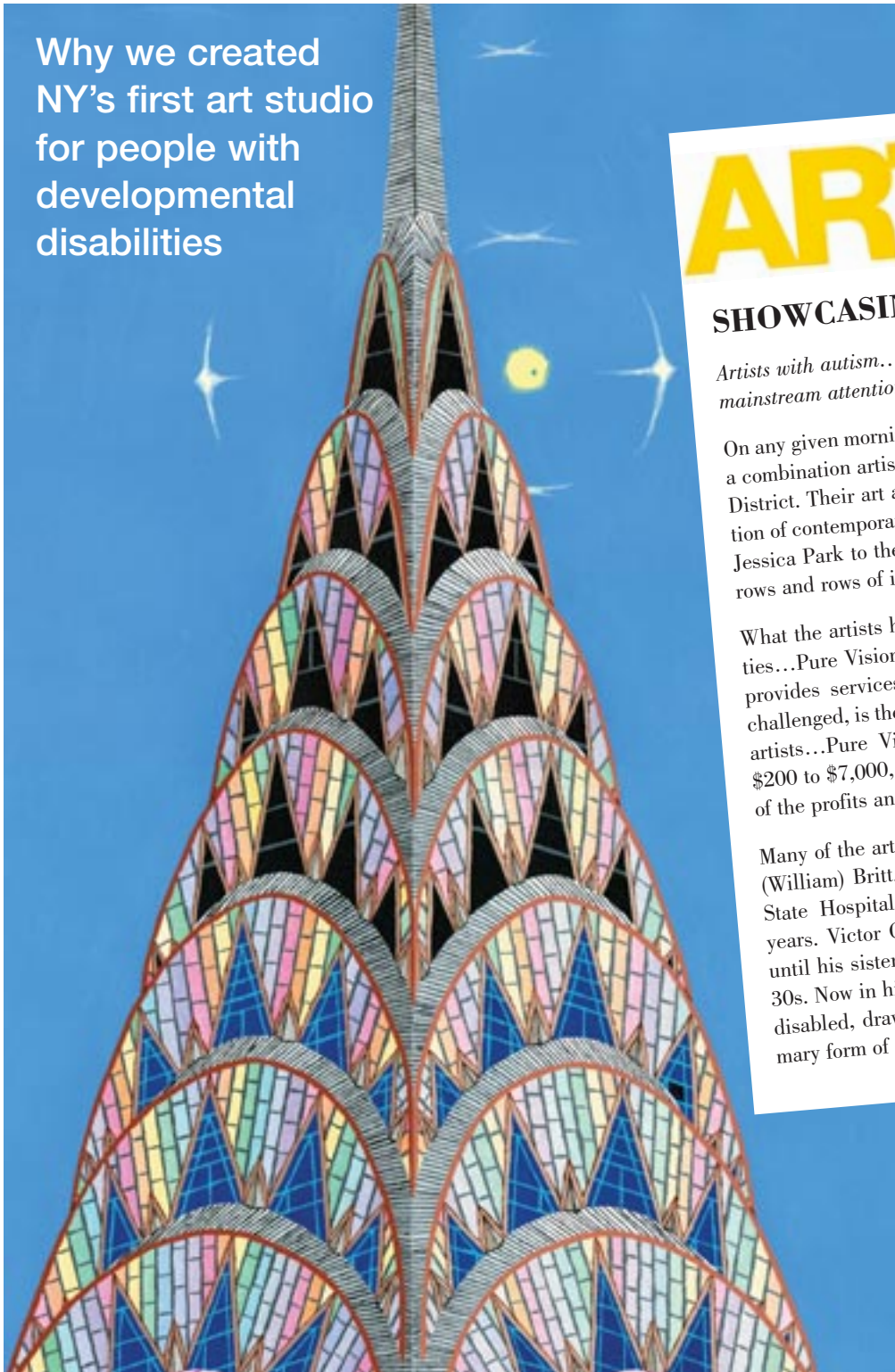
He's now meeting new challenges. He's now speaking up for himself. It was Paul himself who sought out and secured Modell's—a major retailer of sneakers—as his employer of choice.

This working relationship is a win-win situation.

“Despite his shyness and difficulty communicating, he's really learned to advocate,” says Josh Skolnick. “Work presents a social challenge that he finds interesting and motivating, enabling Paul to do so much more for himself.”

With the help of his job coach, Paul was able to shape his work role to allow him to relate to customers face to face. Accomplishing this represents a major milestone, explains Josh, adding, “Paul knows where he wants to work, he's developing the right skills, and he will graduate with a job.”♥

Why we created
NY's first art studio
for people with
developmental
disabilities



Jessica Park, "Chrysler Building." Acrylic on paper. 2004
All photos courtesy of Pure Vision Arts

OCTOBER 2004
ARTnews

SHOWCASING 'NEURODIVERSITY'

Artists with autism...and other disabilities are attracting mainstream attention

On any given morning, some 20 artists are at work at Pure Vision Arts, a combination artists' studio and gallery space in New York's Chelsea District. Their art and that displayed on the walls reflect a cross section of contemporary styles, from the architecturally precise images of Jessica Park to the Pop-like canvases of Susan Brown, which feature rows and rows of ice cream sodas.

What the artists here share is that they have developmental disabilities...Pure Vision, a nonprofit offshoot of The Shield Institute, which provides services to children and adults who are developmentally challenged, is the first New York gallery dealing exclusively with such artists...Pure Vision isn't about charity. With works ranging from \$200 to \$7,000, the gallery's 30 contracted artists receive 50 percent of the profits and are gathering mainstream attention...

Many of the artists have overcome hardships and long hospital stays. (William) Britt, now 69, taught himself to paint at the Willowbrook State Hospital...where he was institutionalized for more than 30 years. Victor Cristescu lived in Romania without special assistance until his sister brought him to the United States, when he was in his 30s. Now in his 40s, the nonverbal Cristescu, who is developmentally disabled, draws only images of churches on paper, which is his primary form of communication and expression...

—Sarah Bayliss



114 West 17th Street
New York, NY 10011
P 212.366.4263
purevisionarts@aol.com

By Pamala Rogers, Ed.D.
Director, Pure Vision Arts studio and gallery

The Shield's highly accessible loft space offers a place where people are free to explore the studio arts

We initiated Pure Vision Arts (PVA), New York's first specialized professional studio and gallery for people with developmental disabilities in 2002 to expand creative opportunities for men and women throughout New York City and beyond. Our newly-renovated space is alive with people making vibrant work six days a week.

PVA's open loft space is located in the center of Manhattan's Chelsea art district. Close proximity to nearby galleries and museums adds to its excitement as a social destination. The highly accessible studio offers a place where people with a



Photo courtesy of Pure Vision Arts



Pamala Rogers, Ed.D. Photo by Amy Stein.

wide range of developmental disabilities, including autism, are free to explore the studio arts.

Participants are encouraged and supported by trained professionals with backgrounds in fine arts, art education, and art therapy. Here, under one roof, we offer materials, studio space, exhibition opportunities, and support for an expanding number of artists who are gaining a growing audience.

The Shield has long been at the forefront of efforts to include people with disabilities in the artistic mainstream. The studio emerged from our wish to make fine arts experiences available to more and more people. With financial support from N.Y. State's Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, we were able to transform a 2,500 sq. ft. loft space into a well-equipped professional studio and gallery which opened to a large and enthusiastic audience in early 2005.

On a typical day here you'll find men and women busily painting, drawing, or working in a variety of sculptural or textile media. While PVA serves as a vital source of entrepreneurial help for an expanding number of highly gifted

professional artists, we're equally invested in helping people who may not want to pursue artistic careers.

Some of the professionals we represent developed their skills independently or in isolation with little or no support, while others have grown up in families where their visual gifts were strongly encouraged. Although art making has been integral to all of their lives, there wasn't a place in New York City, the nation's cultural capital, where their talent was taken seriously. This is the void we sought to fill by creating an engaging, lively place where they would find encouragement and satisfy their need for ongoing support—something all artists require.

Beginning, emerging and seasoned artists are finding new opportunities with PVA's support. The artists we represent are contributing to the growing movement of self taught art and are being included in more exhibitions, private and corporate collections, and publications.

We're also an important center for the exchange of information between art educators, art therapists, curators and collectors who champion the inclusion of under-represented persons in the art world.

Ultimately, Pure Vision Arts is about creating social change. So many of these artists have led amazing lives and the sheer power and uniqueness of their expression serves to break down negative stereotypes and alter the public's misperceptions about people who have disabilities.

We invite you to visit and experience the remarkable work that is being created here by artists with pure vision.♥

Pure Vision Arts is located at 114 West 17th Street in Manhattan. Our telephone number is (212) 366-4263.

Marguerite Patti: Mixing Whimsy and Flare on Paper

PVA artist's fascination with pop culture comes alive in mixed-media works seen in exhibitions and private collections.

One of several emerging artists to find new opportunities through Pure Vision Arts, Marguerite Patti has been making art for as long as she can remember. Sojourning to the studio weekly since its opening in 2002, she has been steadily developing her gifts as an imaginative observer with a style all her own.

A life-long New Yorker, Marguerite, 53, has always found joy and excitement in the world through art. Her mother recalls that as a girl she often got into trouble with her teachers for “doodling and day-dreaming.” Marguerite focused on what interested her. With her family's continuing encouragement, and professional support from The Shield, she has developed a unique and appealing illustrative drawing style. Marguerite's art is



Marguerite Patti, “Great Opera Stars” detail



Marguerite Patti with her drawing “Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and all his Saints”

a continuing source of personal joy and others are increasingly drawn to it.

“While she is personally shy and reserved, Marguerite's art depicts her humorous, flamboyant, and whimsical side,” says PVA's Pamala Rogers. She especially enjoys movies, museums, and going to the Broadway Theater with her mother. Marguerite's interest in fashion, cinema, animation, and other forms of popular culture inspire the colorful costumes and lively themes which appear in her drawings and mixed media works.

Her flourishing career includes participation in these exhibitions:

- American Folk Art Museum, Spring Benefit Exhibition: 2005.
- Pure Visions in the City, Pure Vision Arts Gallery: 2003, 2005.
- Annual Outsider Art Fair, Puck Building, NYC: 2003, 2004, 2005.
- Art View, Carnegie Institute Washington, D.C.: 2003.
- Gertrude White Gallery, Greenwich, Conn: 2002.
- Diverse Faces/Diverse Cultures, Pace University Gallery: 2002.♥



Daniel Monroe, "Still Life" detail, 2003 pencil on paper



Susan Brown, "View from Penn Station," 2005



Bello Green and his sculptures



Walter Mika, "Cop", 2003, Cray-pas on paper



Susan Brown, "My Mother" detail, 2004



William Britt, "Skaters" detail, 1999 acrylic on canvas

Newsday

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TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2005 | CITY EDITION

A will to work and contribute

■ The Shield Institute helps disabled students be part of society by getting them paying jobs

BY GREG BENSINGER
STAFF WRITER

Dressed in a blue cap and gown, Roberto Mosely accepted his diploma at Queens Borough Hall last Monday to enthusiastic applause from dozens of his peers and a personal congratulation from Borough President Helen Marshall.

Mosely, however, is not your typical student. After 12 years, Mosely, who (has autism), graduated from Flushing's Shield Institute...And defying expectations, he will enter the work force for the first time.

"I thought we would always be providing for him, and I didn't think he would ever have a job," said his father, Robert Mosely, 44. "He really can't speak that well, but you can see he's happy."

This fall, Roberto Mosely, 21, will start working 10 hours per week at an Eckerd pharmacy near his home in Bensonhurst. And he will soon double that workload.

"He's grown up so much at Shield, he's going to have his own American dream," said his glowing mother, Aurora, 42.

Tucked away on a residential area on Roosevelt Avenue, the Shield Institute is home each day to more than 60 students from all over New York with developmental disabilities...With funding from the New York State and City departments of Education, The Shield



Photo by Amy Stein.

Queens Borough Pres. Helen Marshall congratulates Roberto Mosely, flanked by Shield educator Joshua Skolnick at a joyous June 2005 graduation ceremony at Queens Borough Hall. All three are featured in this *Newsday* story about the agency's successful efforts to integrate students with developmental challenges into the world of work.

Institute teaches its students life skills such as reading and paying bills, and has the goal of landing students part-time jobs with companies such as Modell's, Xerox and Burger King.

Initially, students are paid a modest stipend by Shield for their outside work, but they eventually begin earning at least minimum wage and sometimes more.

"To get their first paycheck is a wonderful moment for the students," said Shield Planning Services coordinator Joshua Skolnick. "They finally can feel like a part of their community, not a drain on it."

For employers it's a chance to gain a committed worker. "These young people have a lot of potential and in many cases are phenomenal workers," said Larry Burkhart, general manager of the Elmhurst Modell's, which employs two Shield students.

Unfortunately, Shield's program is more the exception than the rule. For most of the nation's developmentally disabled people, the dream of working never becomes a reality...Despite federal law guaranteeing all Americans with a disability a free education, the majority of special education programs do not provide for students to enter the work force, said Skolnick... "There needs to be more places like (Shield) because it is so empowering for people with disabilities to earn a paycheck," said Linda Hickson, a Columbia University special education professor.

That is what Shield is really all about. "We think that everyone has a right to work, no matter what their disability," said Shield executive director Susan Provenzano. "It goes beyond learning simple daily skills; they deserve to be integrated into society."

This school year, nearly half of the students from the Institute had some employment and, Skolnick said, that number should increase in coming years.

Take Kulwant Singh, who despite mental retardation, commutes one hour each way from his cramped apartment in Jamaica to Chelsea to work five hours a week stocking shelves at Old Navy.

"I want to work; it's fun," said the 16-year-old, flashing a broad smile. "I like money; I want to earn it so I can buy my parents a bigger apartment."

A Message from the President



David Sweet

The Shield Institute is guided today by the same vision and commitment that has helped generations of New Yorkers since 1921 find new direction, hope, skills, and life-affirming opportunities.

As both a New Yorker and officer of The Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services (JBFCS), I feel privileged to be able to serve as president of The Shield.

The staff's commitment, experience, and talent coupled with the dedication of our board of directors enables The Shield to serve people effectively—and with a level of creativity and caring that is inspiring.

The agency's affiliate relationship with the JBFCS makes it possible for two longstanding non-profit organizations—each rooted in the proud philanthropic tradition of the Jewish community—to share their expertise in helping children and families lead healthy, complete lives.

The stories of growth and achievement conveyed in this report speak simply yet eloquently to the greatness of the human spirit...They also affirm that through thick and thin, you—the staff, families, volunteers, and donors—remain the greatest force behind The Shield.

Thank you all for truly making a difference.♥

David J. Sweet, Esq.
President



James Torre, seated, a longstanding participant at the Bayside adult program, is attended by his parents Cecilia and Joe Torre (at right) during a fall walk. James' bus escort, Janice Williams, and Shield Institute staff members also joined the Torre family. *Photo by Amy Stein.*

A Message from Joe Torre, Parent and Supporter

My 35-year-old son, James, has benefited greatly by his participation in The Shield's Bayside program. For 15 years, James has been a part of a small, well-run community in which caring, dignity, and respect are more than just words: they are practiced.

My wife and I have great confidence in the agency's leadership and staff. We also share a strong sense of understanding and compassion for other families with members who have developmental disabilities.

As a businessman, I value what non-profits like The Shield have to offer. I show my support by giving of my time, making contributions, as well as encouraging friends, neighbors, relatives, business associates, and clients to make gifts.

When we create opportunities for people we help make the world a more humane place.

By 2006, I have set a personal goal of helping raise \$300,000 to support the agency's programs and services. For me there is no finer investment in the future of our children, our city, and nation. I believe that when we create opportunities for all people to lead good, decent lives, we help make the world a more humane place for people everywhere.♥

Yours truly,
Joe Torre

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*Director of Expressive Arts, Pure Vision
Arts Studio*

Susan Samek, M.A.
Director of Queens Adult Services



Shield consumers make their way into the Pure Vision Arts studio and gallery on West 17th Street in Chelsea. Photo by Amy Stein.

Allocation of The Shield Institute's Annual Budgetary Resources

FISCAL YEAR 2004: JULY 2003- JUNE 2004		
Education	10,561,485	37.49%
Adult Programs	14,065,184	49.93%
Early Intervention	792,448	2.81%
Agency Administration	2,750,367	9.77%
Total	28,169,484	100.00%

Copies of The Shield Institute's most recent financial statements and auditor's report prepared by the independent auditing firm of LOEB & TROPER are available through the Office of Development and Community Relations.

The Shield Institute greatly appreciates the generosity of these and other corporations, foundations, and organizations.

A full list of our donors for the years 2004 – 2005, including our individual contributors, is available through the Office of Development and Community Relations.

Aetna, Inc. (USI Insurance)
 Amper, Politziner & Mattia, P.C.
 Bass Trading
 Bryan Cave LLP
 The Cooper Union
 The FAR Fund/Fund for Social Change
 Flushing Savings Bank
 Fresh Direct
 Green Realty Development Company
 JBFCS
 Johnson & Johnson
 The Kiwanis Club of Flushing
 Modell's Sporting Goods
 NY Mercantile Exchange

The Michael Gordon Foundation
 Newsday
 The New York Mets Foundation
 Other Press
 Psychotherapy & Quality Assurance Service
 RAM Abstract Ltd.
 ReedSmith LLP
 Signature Bank
 Sobel Affiliates, Inc.
 The Starker Family Foundation
 Spear, Leeds & Kellogg
 Sterling National Bank
 Transel Elevator & Electric, Inc.
 United Way of New York City

The Shield Institute

Founded in 1921 under Jewish auspices, The Shield Institute, also known as The Shield of David, is a non-sectarian, publicly-supported education and human service agency for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Affiliated with the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, The Shield is responsible for its own fund-raising. Our not-for-profit programs seek to transform the way our communities understand, relate to, support and advocate for citizens with developmental disabilities. We are proud to be active in the growing national movement to enable people with disabilities to lead meaningful, independent lives.♥



Supporters join dedication at 1958 ground-breaking of Bronx facility.



Girls observe Jewish Sabbath with Rabbi in The Shield's efforts to support disadvantaged and homeless girls.



Famed Andrews Sisters perform at 1958 "Cavalcade of Stars," The Shield's long-running annual stage show at Carnegie Hall.

Reaching Families, Reaching You



Joseph Gordon

A recent college graduate who joined our fund-raising staff a few months back asked me, “Of all The Shield’s donors and supporters, which is the most important to our future: the foundations, corporations, government agencies, or individual philanthropists?”

“None,” I replied.

“Hmm?” she said, looking momentarily surprised.

“It’s the families,” I said. “While all supporters are important, none are more important to us than families.

“Public funds make up almost our entire approximately \$28 million budget,” I continued, “and our consumers’ families are our most important allies in making sure that The Shield receives these essential public resources.

They’re also our greatest allies in finding new donors to help us do more.”

“Got it,” she said, nodding, before quickly asking: “So, are we reaching them?”

This time it was me who “Hmm’d,” realizing that she just put her finger on what matters most to us as fund-raisers for The Shield... reaching you.

So, with this Report, we invite you, the parents, sisters, brothers, grandparents, neighbors, and friends to please let us know: What might we do to connect? Are there ways we can work together to bring good people on board? New friends and allies are essential to building new programs and securing the agency’s future. We don’t want to overlook anyone.

Simply put, if you’ve been out of the loop, we’re here to help reconnect you.

In the months ahead, The Shield must widen its network of supporters if it’s to grow financially strong. As we go about

organizing events, sending out proposals, and extending our reach to foundations, corporations, and local businesses, we would be grateful for your help. Do you know of friends, co-workers, neighbors, relatives, or anyone else who might be willing to give of their time, money or expertise?

With your help we can reach more people and widen our circle of friends and supporters. Please give us a call.♥

Joseph Gordon
Director, Development & Community Relations



2005 Annual Spring Recognition Day



Photos by Amy Stein.

Where to Find Us

Operating in five locations in Manhattan, Queens, and the Bronx, The Shield Institute's services for children and adults with developmental disabilities include:

- Special education programs for preschool and school age children.
- Service coordination.
- Full-time and part-time day habilitation services.
- Clinical services.
- Transition services from school to adult life.
- Day care for typically developing children.

1 **Bronx Early Learning Center**
1800 Andrews Avenue
Bronx, NY 10453
(718) 299-7600

2 **Manhattan Center**
110 East 107th Street
New York, NY 10029
(212) 860-8400

3 **Pure Vision Arts**
114 West 17th Street
New York, NY 10011
(212) 366-4263

4 **Flushing Center**
144-61 Roosevelt Avenue
Flushing, NY 11354
(718) 939-8700

5 **Bayside Center**
39-09 214th Place
Bayside, NY 11361
(718) 229-5757



www.shield.org

Office of Development & Community Relations
114 West 17th Street, N.Y., N.Y. 10011
(212) 366-4263

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The **SHIELD** *Institute*

Educating and Supporting New Yorkers with Developmental Disabilities



Jewish Board of Family
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