

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Jane Ryan Elementary Holiday Fair Benefits St. Vincent's Special Needs Services**

**Trumbull, Conn. (December 20, 2011) –** Mary Ellen Bolton, Principal of Jane Ryan Elementary School, and school staff members Barbara DiDomenico and Joanne Sloan, presented a check for \$1,810 to St. Vincent's Special Needs Services CEO Raymond Baldwin Jr. Jane Ryan raised the money during their annual "Home for the Holidays Fair" held in early December.

In addition to being a holiday tradition, the fair is a fundraiser for charity. All proceeds, including table donations, refreshments, and raffle items were donated this year to St. Vincent's Special Needs Services in Trumbull. Bolton's daughter, Kaitlin, is a student at the Feroletto Center, which is a comprehensive education program for children with complex disabilities.

Baldwin remarked, "We are very grateful to be the beneficiary of Jane Ryan's generosity. We also appreciate being connected with the school's wonderful staff, students and families. It is particularly heartwarming because we are so fond of Kaitlin and the Boltons have been an extension of our family here at St. Vincent's Special Needs for years.

After presenting the check, Bolton, DiDomenico, and Sloan went on to tour the Feroletto Child Development Center. They visited with children in classrooms and observed the enthusiasm as well as the comprehensive therapies offered to each of the 70 students at the Center.

Ray Baldwin explained that approximately 75% of the students are non-verbal and non-ambulatory, and many are medically fragile. Each child is provided with customized equipment, such as wheelchairs, standers, or speech devices, and each has individualized physical, occupational, speech, and/or auditory therapies. While the basic education and therapies are funded by state programs, we are continuously striving to raise money for basic needs such as customized equipment and activities that can enhance the quality of life for those we serve.

In addition to the Feroletto Center, St. Vincent's Special Needs Services offers Adult Day Programs, Residential Services, Birth-to-Three Intervention Services, and referral and counseling services for families of individuals with disabilities. St. Vincent's Special Needs strives to provide the best educational, medical, therapeutic services to each individual it serves. Underlying the very skilled work is a palpable sense of enthusiasm and joy for even the smallest development.

For more information, contact Deborah Evans Cox – Director, Development and Community Relations at (203) 386-2714 or email [Deborah.Cox@stvincents.org](mailto:Deborah.Cox@stvincents.org). You may also visit [www.StVincentsSpecialNeeds.org](http://www.StVincentsSpecialNeeds.org).



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