Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Winter! And, we’re in full swing—teachers, therapists, auxiliary staff—all privileged to serve our students.

It is truly a privilege, and an inspiration. As Executive Director, I have a front-row seat to witness our students not only face the challenges of their illness, but thrive as they continue to be taught and therapeutically cared for in a setting where they are accepted and encouraged not to let mental illness define them.

Within these pages you’ll hear about our Feels Like Home Gala held in October with our special guest Vanessa Williams; our forthcoming Clear View 5K—a community favorite; a student profile, and so much more. There’s even a raffle ticket enclosed! We hope you’ll support that effort and the various development initiatives we have underway. You have the power to help us sustain and grow the mission that is the Clear View School and Day Treatment Center; we hope you’ll choose to use that power!

I would be remiss if I did not mention the passing of Anne E. Harmon—a treasured member of the Clear View family. Anne was a founding member of AMIC/Clear View and a longtime board member. She only retired from the Board a few years ago. She had a passionate heart for the children of AMIC/Clear View and its staff. She proved this passion over and over again by tireless and generous service in so many different ways.

Anne well understood the mission that is Clear View. She understood the struggles of parents trying to find a school that not only meets, but exceeds, their child’s unique needs. With one out of five children challenged by mental illness, she understood that the Clear View mission is vital. Anne continues to be an example to all of us as we work together to forward the mission she helped start, especially as we approach our 50th year of service!

Thank you for all you do to sustain us and help us grow!

With gratitude,

Charlie
Clear View Student Starts **Stand Up to Cancer** Club

Last March, Sayvion, lost his grandfather to cancer, and like any loving grandson, he was struggling with how to deal with this loss. Together with one of his teachers, James Traill, they discussed some ideas that might make Sayvion feel better. I wanted to “do something instead of cry,” said Sayvion. The “something” he wanted to do was start a school club to educate and fundraise for the national organization, Stand Up to Cancer. He especially wanted to help children with cancer because, he said, “My grandfather loved children.”

Sayvion, with the help of Trail, contacted the national organization, wrote a proposal, and presented it to the school administration for their approval, and by January, Clear View Stands Up 2 Cancer was born. Several students and staff members have joined and they have already had their first fundraiser—a jelly bean count! Sayvion has some lofty goals. He would like to raise $3,000 over the rest of this school year and next. He also wants to educate others about what it feels like to lose someone you love to cancer and what someone can do to work through that loss. Sayvion says, that developing this club is “making me a better person!” And, who could argue with that?

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**Vanessa Williams Champions Clear View**

Famed actress, singer, designer and Westchester County native lent her voice to the Clear View cause as an honored guest and entertainer at the Feels Like Home Gala held at The Briarcliff Manor in October.

Ms. Williams, knew of Clear View through Executive Director Charles Devlin. In an interview with News 12 Williams commented on Clear View’s almost 50-year history saying “When you can help kids and see them progress, you’re doing something right.”

Along with greeting and taking pictures with the Gala guests, Ms. Williams sang what is fast becoming Clear View’s unofficial anthem—Feels Like Home (music/lyrics by Randy Newman).

Entertainment was also provided by members of the Michael Czerwinski Quartet featuring daughter Kathryn who sang standards and ballads. Mike is a former Clear View teacher and husband to Lynn Czerwinski, a 30 year Master Teacher who has dedicated her career to the students of Clear View.

Along with a silent auction and a grand raffle, the Feels Like Home Gala was a great success!

Thank you to all who made it so.

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**#GivingTuesday**

Taking place the Tuesday after Thanksgiving since 2012, #GivingTuesday is an international movement to help raise awareness and funds for non-profits. The Clear View School took advantage of the special day to spread the word far and wide about the school’s mission via social media and e-mail blasts. We are most grateful to all those who participated and look forward to even greater enthusiasm in 2017!
Clear View Loses Beloved Friend

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Anne E. Harmon—a true champion of Clear View since its founding. Inspired by the birth of her own special needs son and her favorite poem Heaven’s Special Child, Harmon was instrumental in the school’s founding (1968), and in its continued growth. In fact, she never left its side. As a parent, staff member, volunteer, supporter and board member, she took on all those roles tirelessly with enthusiasm and joy.

She was responsible for the school’s longtime relationship with actress Julie Harris, who also became one of Clear View’s most loyal and generous benefactors. In 1977, Harmon and Harris collaborated on a major fundraiser for the school.

Anne also enjoyed her affiliation with The Thursday Club—a philanthropic foundation that makes grants to non-profit agencies serving the community. To be sure, she introduced their membership to the mission of The Clear View School, and they responded with great kindness and generosity, making grants to the school throughout the years.

She will be greatly missed.

Sunday, May 21st
Be a Champion for Clear View

Here are some of the ways that you can help to raise awareness and funds for Clear View… To begin, visit our Clear View website and click on the 5K link (top right corner)

Register to Run or Walk (Entry fees are listed)
- Click “Register”
- Choose “Click here to register on-line”.

Fundraise & Donations — Sponsor a Runner/Walker:
From here you can Sponsor someone in one of two ways: “Click Here to visit our CrowdRise Portal to sponsor a runner online” (At this point you will be taken to the CrowdRise fundraising website).

a) Start Your Own Fundraiser — Select this option to start your own personal fundraiser or team in this event. Sign up for a CrowdRise account and follow the steps accordingly (you will be given the option to upload a picture, bio, etc.).

b) Join A Team — Select this option if you want to join a team that’s already part of this event. Scroll down and click on the team you want to join and click on “Join the Team”.

Event Sponsorship
- To become a Sponsor of the event, Click “Our Sponsors/Become A Sponsor”.
- Choose “Click here to download a PDF with all of the information as well as the sponsorship form”.

For Donations Only
Click the words “Fundraise & Donations”.
“Donate” – Click on the Donate button and choose a team/individual to support.

Visit: www.clearviewschool.org for more information
Donate Now!
It’s as Easy as a Click

- Visit www.clearviewschool.org, pull down the “Support” Tab and make a secure on-line donation.
- Send a check to the Clear View School, 480 Albany Post Road Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510; ATTN: Development Office
- Email the Development Office: development@clearviewschool.org to discuss a payment method that works best for you!

A Little Effort Goes a Long Way to Help Clear View

- **Shop AmazonSmile:** Log onto smile.amazon.com using your Amazon account credentials. Enter the Association for Mentally Ill Children as the charitable organization you’d like to support, then go and shop! AmazonSmile will give 0.5% of your eligible Amazon purchases to The Clear View School!
- **Box Tops for Education:** Simply collect Box Tops from eligible General Mills products and send them in to Clear View. We’ll do the rest! They are redeemable for cash.
- **Unused or partially used gift cards:** Consider donating their cash value to Clear View. Go to www.giftcardtank.com to find out all the details.
- **Schechtman Orthodontics Great Gift Give Back:** Need orthodontia? Visit the Clear View website to find out about this charitable giving program.

Thank you to all who participated in Clear View’s “Feels Like Home Campaign.”

Your support contributed greatly to the caring environment of the school.