

Ossining Children's Center
Anniversary Gala



Honoring **BETSY BLOCK**
and **DAVID SWOPE**

Diamond Sponsor



OUR HEARTFELT THANKS
TO THE STAFF
of the
Ossining Children's Center

YOU ARE THE UNSUNG
"PHILANTHROPISTS."

The educational skills
and the loving attention
you give to our community's
children make a priceless
contribution to our society.



BETSY BLOCK
and
DAVID SWOPE

Ossining Children's Center

120th Anniversary Gala

Honoring

Betsy Block
and
David Swope

**to benefit the Tuition
Assistance Program**

Sunday, April 26, 2015

Abigail Kirsch at Tappan Hill,
Tarrytown

Music by the ABC's of Jazz



Diamond Sponsor

*“Unless someone like you
cares a whole awful lot
Nothing is going to get
better. It's not.”*

Dr. Seuss



David Swope and Betsy Block

*Thank you for
caring a whole
awful lot.*

Art and Becky



The Evening's Program



5:30 pm **Cocktails and Hors d'Oeuvres**

6:30 pm **Welcome**
John Chow, Co-President
Ossining Children's Center

“Ready to Learn”
Ossining Children's Center video

“Fund the Future”
Special Fundraising Appeal for
Child Care Scholarships
Madelyn Ricciardi, Board member
Ossining Children's Center
With Special Guest, Diana Lopez

Dinner

Presentation to our Honorees
Howard Milbert, Executive Director
Ossining Children's Center

Betsy Block: Our Champion for Children

David Swope: Our Big Picture Thinker – and Doer

Good Evening!

Silver Sponsor

WHO is our WIZARD?
WHO is the man at the CENTER
of so many important causes?
WHO makes magic for the
Ossining Children's Center?
And
WHO do we turn to for advice and action?

THANK YOU
DAVID

Yvonne and Leslie



A Message from our Co-Presidents

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Ossining Children's Center's Board of Directors, welcome to this special celebration. While we are honoring two extraordinary leaders in the development of the Children's Center, we also want to honor YOU.

Indeed, Betsy Block and David Swope are exemplars of the kind of commitment and generosity that the Children's Center enjoys from our amazing circle of supporters: board members, donors, volunteers, advocates, community organizations, houses of worship, public officials, parents and staff.

In fact, when experts in early childhood education, youth programs, not-for-profit management, philanthropy or child care visit the Center, they are impressed at the breadth and depth of the support that the Center receives from the community. We can't thank you enough.

This event is the kick-off to a year-long celebration of the Center's extraordinary 120-year history. We hope you will join us for our other anniversary events throughout 2015 and 2016.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joan'.

Joan McGinty
Co-President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John'.

John Chow
Co-President

**OCC is the Best.
Thank you, everyone, for the
years we spent with you.**

**Thank you, David and Betsy,
for your devotion to the Center.**

**We love you Grammy and are so
proud of you! Congratulations!**

Elsa, Libby, Cecelia and Joe Block



Dear Friends,

Thank you for being part of this evening's special celebration in which we are honoring two people, Betsy Block and David Swope, who have championed our long tradition of volunteer leadership. Yet, Betsy and David are the first to say, "It's great to celebrate our history, but we also need to be looking to the future."

The future looks challenging for the not-for-profit sector in general, and for the not-for-profit child care community in particular.

The Ossining Children's Center has pioneered higher standards in child care – both by setting an example ourselves, and by advocating for higher standards at the state and national levels. We have been very successful in this advocacy. Moreover, research that proves the efficacy of high quality educational child care has received unprecedented coverage in the media. Yet, at the same time, government funding for our work keeps dwindling. So, greater philanthropic support has become essential to our ability to maintain the high quality that our mission demands.

More than ever, we need philanthropic leaders like Betsy and David. Who are the emerging leaders who will be the Ossining Children's Center's champions in the coming years and decades? You have already shown your current commitment through your support this evening. Won't you join us in meeting the challenges of the future?

Sincerely yours,

Howard Milbert, Executive Director

History of the Ossining Children's Center

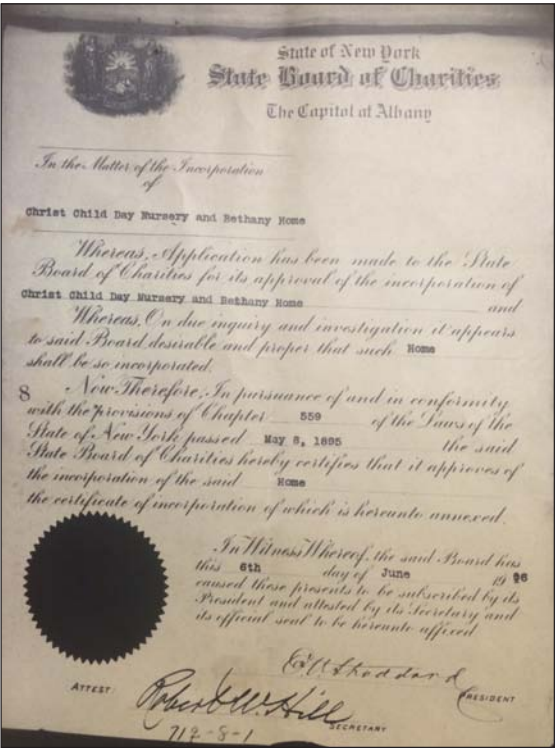


The Ossining Children's Center is recognized as one of the top child care centers in New York State, having earned a Four Star rating by the independent "Quality Stars NY" child care rating and improvement program. Moreover, OCC and the Ossining Public School system are partners in an innovative full day universal prekindergarten program. **OCC provides two sections of the Ossining Schools' Pre-K** in its home-like setting. The OCC Pre-K classes mirror the public school curriculum, are taught by certified teachers, and meet the New York State Common Core Standards.

It all started very modestly 120 years ago. The Ossining Children's Center was founded by the women's association of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in 1895 as the "Christ Child Day Nursery and Bethany Home." At that time, Ossining had a number of widowed immigrant women who wanted to work to support their families, but there was no such thing as "day care." And so, some visionary women created **one of the first day care centers in the country.**



The playground at the Center's original location on Ann Street.



The original incorporation papers of the "Christ Child Day Nursery and Bethany Home," today's Ossining Children's Center.

From the outset, under the direction of an education-credentialed headmistress, **the care provided at the Center was educational rather than custodial in nature.** Since its founding, the Center has emphasized the education of the whole child—the entire emotional, social, physical, and intellectual being.

When the Center first opened its doors, care was offered for free. Nobody came. Some inquiries

revealed that poor working women did not want a handout. The board decided to charge a small fee, and very quickly the center was filled. (OCC maintains that tradition -- everyone pays something for their child care.)

The center became independent of St. Paul's Church and was officially incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in 1906. The original board consisted of 15 women.



The original "Christ Child Day Nursery and Bethany Home" provided -- not just child day care -- but also a home for senior citizens: one of the first intergenerational programs of its kind. Pictured here are some residents of "Bethany Home" on Ann Street.

This Is The

ONE RED DOOR

In Ossining

That Is Open

FROM 7:30 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. — five days a week — the year around

TO Sixty children, aged 3 to 10

WHO Have working mothers or a special need

FOR The services we provide — hot, nutritious meals; rest; constructive play, indoors and out

WITH An Executive Director, 5 qualified staff and 2 volunteer teachers, a cook and assistant

AND With the cooperation of the parents who pay tuition according to their income, help to raise money and to maintain the house and equipment

AT The Ossining Children's Center
90 South Highland Avenue
Ossining, New York

To Keep This Door Open

IN 1953 IT WILL COST

FOR

Maintenance and Repair	\$ 996.
Utilities (oil, gas, electricity and telephone)	1,104.
Insurance	324.
Supplies (play, school, office and medical)	1,344.
Food and Kitchen Staff	5,765.
Salaries	14,780.
A Total of	\$24,313.

WE ESTIMATE WE WILL RECEIVE

FROM

Parents' Fees	\$ 14,000.
Benefits	1,885.
Restricted Endowments	1,250.
A Total of	\$17,135.

MUST BE RAISED BY CONTRIBUTIONS \$ 7,178.

Won't You Help?

Fundraising brochure from 1953. Note: the annual budget was \$24,313. Today, the Ossining Children's Center's annual budget is \$2 million.

History Continued



The playground at 90 South Highland Avenue, circa 1960.

As times changed, and women of every economic status joined the workforce, Ossining Children’s Center’s enrollment began to reflect the socio-economic diversity of Ossining. During World War II, for example, many Ossining women joined the war effort by doing jobs vacated by men who joined the military. The government instituted a universal child care program at that time to make it feasible for mothers to join the workforce. At that time, “Christ Child Day Nursery and Bethany Home” changed its name to the “Ossining Children’s Center” in order to qualify for government funding. The name change reflected the fact that the Center’s mission had always been non-sectarian.

In the 1960s, as more and more mothers began working outside the home, the Ossining Children’s Center became involved in advocacy for working families. The Center’s Executive Director at the time, Sally Ziegler, led the formation of a Westchester County-wide day care directors’ association. This group became strong advocates for public policy regarding child care. The directors’ association evolved into the Child Care Council of Westchester, with Sally Ziegler as its first Executive Director. Since Sally Ziegler’s time, **the Ossining Children’s Center has continued to play a leadership role in advocacy for children and working parents.**

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Co-Chairs

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Marilyn and Richard Wishnie

Special Thanks to those who donated Professional Services

Graphic Design:

Stephanie Kloss and Lisa Rosenbloom

Photography: MaryAnn van Hengel

Slide Show Production: Christina DaCosta

Our Honorees

David Swope



David Swope grew up in Ossining in a family with a long tradition of community service. In 1957, his family donated the land that became the core of Teatown Lake Reservation. David's father served on the board of Phelps Memorial Hospital, and his mother, Sally Swope, was a devoted board member of the Ossining Children's Center.

David graduated from Harvard and Columbia Law School, and took his family's service ethic global. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in India, where he helped set up the first legal-assistance program in Bombay. After completing his Peace Corps service, he worked as a lawyer at White and Case in New York City.

In the 1970s, when his father became ill, David returned to Ossining to manage his father's business: the Jefferson Valley Racquet Club. He and his business partner, Beth Beck, transformed that 800-member club into today's "Club Fit," two cutting-edge multi-sport recreational complexes, with more than 14,000 members.

While building Club Fit, as well as his real estate investment company, David also immersed himself in community service. He has been involved with Teatown for four decades, serving on the board and in many leadership positions, including board chairman. Following in both of his parents' footsteps, he served on the board of Phelps Hospital, and, in 1998, he joined the board of the Ossining Children's Center (OCC). Although he stepped down from the Board of OCC in 2006, he has continued to serve as a valued advisor.

He has been an active board member of the Open Door Family Medical Centers Foundation, Westchester Community College and its Foundation, and the Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC), of which he is Chairman Emeritus. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Westchester Community College.

In a thoughtful, understated way, David challenges organizations to move beyond their comfort zones. When he first joined the board of the Ossining Children's Center, he encouraged the board to embark on the organization's first-ever endowment campaign. The campaign brought the Center's combined endowment and reserve funds to close to \$2 million, the annual revenue from which funds close to \$100,000 annually in child care scholarships.

Another distinguishing characteristic of David's board service is his interest in creating collaborations among organizations. He initiated the Ossining Children's Center - Jacob Burns Film Center partnership some 12 years ago to pilot the "Minds in Motion," animated film workshop; "Minds in Motion" is now an annual staple of OCC's summer camp, and one of JBFC's signature education programs.

In 2008, David received the Association of Development Officers Nonprofit Board Member Award for his philanthropic leadership of the aforementioned not for profit organizations.

Elizabeth Block



Betsy Block hails originally from Cincinnati. She went to Smith College, and upon graduation, moved to New York City to work as an assistant buyer, and later, fashion coordinator, at Bloomingdale's.

She married Jay Block and shortly thereafter "retired" from Bloomingdale's when she and Jay started a family. While she was raising her four children, she committed herself to volunteer work with organizations serving underprivileged children and families.

Betsy, Jay and family moved to Briarcliff Manor in 1967. It didn't take long for Betsy to get engaged in the local community. She joined the Hudson Bells choral group, and was first introduced to the Ossining Children's Center when the Bells came to sing for the children at the Center. Shortly thereafter, she began doing volunteer work for OCC. Her commitment to OCC's mission was evident, and it wasn't long before she was asked to join the Board.

One of the committees Betsy served on was the Search Committee for a new Executive Director in 1985. The Search Committee was looking for a forward thinking educator who also had experience with advocacy on public policy. Little did they know that they would find someone who would establish the Ossining Children's Center as the gold standard in early childhood education, and make the Center and child care advocacy his life's work: OCC's current director Howard Milbert.

Once all four of Betsy's children were in school, she went back to school herself, earning a master's degree in education at Bank Street College in New York City. Her choice of Bank Street was no accident; its educational philosophy mirrors that of OCC: the education of the whole child—the entire emotional, social, physical, and intellectual being. Upon completing her master's, Betsy became a teacher and curriculum coordinator at Rye Country Day School, where she taught until her retirement in 2007.

Throughout her work on her graduate degree and her teaching career, Betsy's commitment to the Ossining Children's Center never wavered. She has always served on several board committees. She served as Board president three different times during three different decades: the 1980s, the 1990's and the 2000's. In 1994, she chaired the Capital Campaign, which funded the purchase and renovation of 92 South Highland Avenue, now home of the Center's exemplary Infant-Toddler Program.

Betsy retired from Rye Country Day School in 2007, and soon after she was drafted to serve her third stint as OCC board president. She also began tutoring in the Children's Center's After-School Program, which she continues to do two afternoons a week.

Congratulations

David Swope and
Betsy Block!

Your hard work to keep
our community healthy
and well cared for is
inspirational.

From your friends at



Briarcliff
914-762-3444

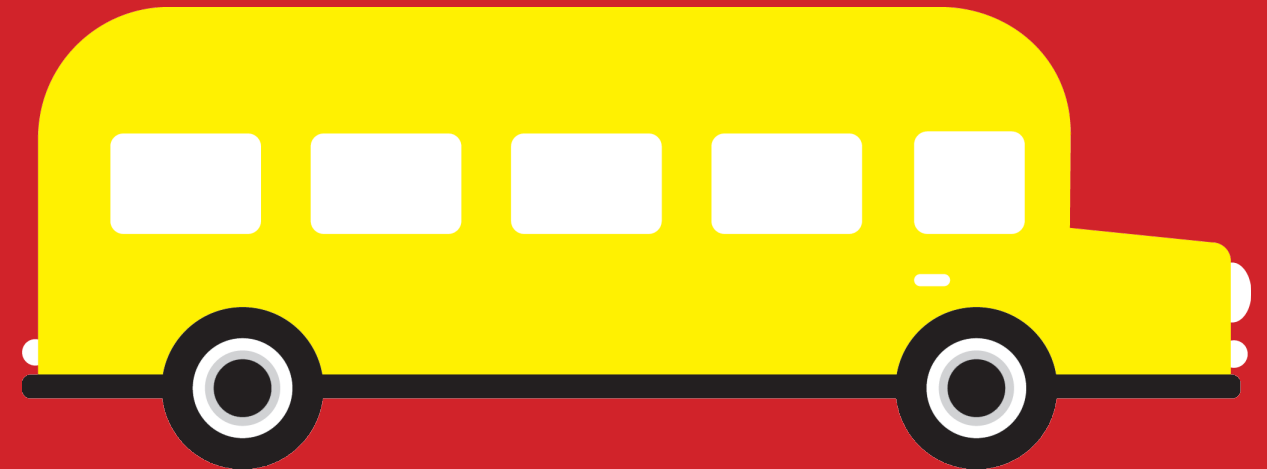
www.clubfit.com

Jefferson Valley
914-245-4040

DEAREST DAVID,

You are the best friend a Children's Center
could have. The best friend anyone could
have!

Love from Janet and Ben

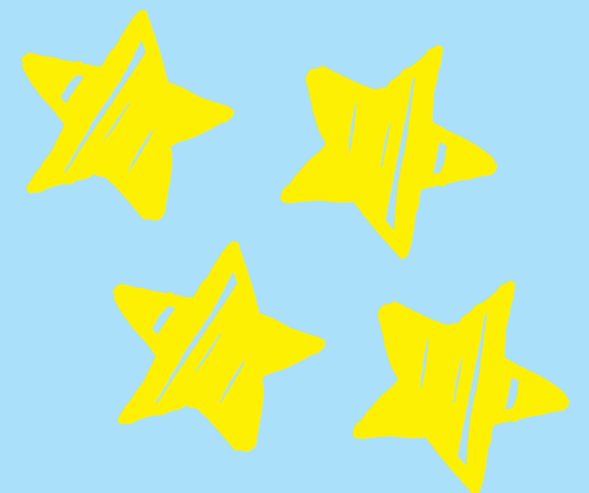


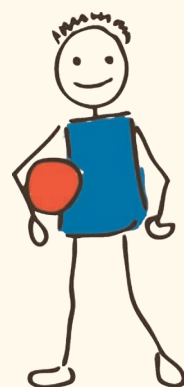
**Congratulations to honorees
Betsy Block and David Swope,
who exemplify everything
a true leader should be.**

**And congratulations to the
Ossining Children's Center
on its 120th Anniversary.**

**OCC has not only stayed abreast of the times,
but remains out front with its Four Star high quality,
nurturing early childhood education.**

Kathleen and Larry Pedowitz





**CONGRATULATIONS
AND MANY THANKS**

to two of

Ossining Children's Center's

Great Leaders,

BETSY BLOCK and DAVID SWOPE

From Barbara and Tom Cleveland



**Thank you, OCC, for
120 years of care and education
of the children in our community!**

**120
YEARS**

**A heartfelt thank you to David Swope and
Betsy Block for their many years of unwavering
support, inspiration and leadership !!!**

Congratulations to all!

Anita and Michael Hegarty

DAVID SWOPE
& BETSY BLOCK:

We thank you for your generosity
and commitment
in improving the lives of those less fortunate

Debby Kittay & Josh Parker

Congratulations to a
Wonderful Organization
Led by Wonderful People!

Beverley and Sabin Streeter

It takes a village and
what a village you have created!
We salute all involved with
the Ossining Children's Center
for your steadfast support of
the Community's children.

With admiration,
Joanne Landau and Fred Schwalb

CONGRATULATIONS, DAVID AND BETSY.

Jill and Jonathan Lerner



www.mack-cali.com



Honor

Mack-Cali is proud to support the Ossining Children's Center. We join in congratulating Betsy Block and David Swope.

100 Clearbrook Road, Elmsford, NY 10523 | 914.592.4800

*Congratulations, David,
on this wonderful honor!*

*From your friends at
Phelps Memorial Hospital Center*



To the OCC staff –
You give our kids love and encouragement.
You nurture their curiosity.
You support their efforts to master new challenges.
You make learning a joy!



Thank you,
the OCC Parents Committee



Congratulations to our long-time friend

David Swope

A man who gives so much of himself to help so many

Liz & Geoff Thompson



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NITA AND STEPHEN LOWEY
salute
Ossining Children's Center
as you mark your
120th Anniversary Gala and
Congratulate your honorees,
BETSY BLOCK
and
DAVID SWOPE.



Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey

CONGRATULATIONS

BETSY and DAVID,

for your long service

and dedication

to the children of the Center.

OUR THANKS,

The van Hengel and Loughlin Families

What a team!

**Celebrating
Mary Hurowitz**

**& everyone's dedication to
Ossining Children's Center**



**feel the LOVE,
your tennis friends**

**Happy 120th Anniversary
to the
Ossining Children's Center
and
Many Thanks to
Betsy Block
and
David Swope
for their generous
ongoing support.**

Leslie Grey Puner

**CONGRATULATIONS,
BETSY AND DAVID**

**Thank you for all your efforts
on behalf of OCC.**

Ruth Baer





Board of Directors

Save These Dates!

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Executive Director

Howard Milbert

Save these dates for more OCC Anniversary Celebrations and Benefit Events

Food, Wine and Beer Tasting Benefit

Thursday, May 28, 6:30 pm
Westchester Marriott,
670 White Plains Rd, Tarrytown



Ossining Children's Center Historical Display

Month of June at the Ossining Public Library
Opening Reception: Friday, June 5, 6:30 pm



Festive Stroll of Holiday Homes
Friday and Saturday, November 20 & 21
Benefit Luncheon, Friday, November 20

CONGRATULATIONS
to tonight's honorees

**BETSY BLOCK
and
DAVID SWOPE**

Your time, dedication and support
given to the
OSSINING CHILDREN'S CENTER
has benefitted, educated and nurtured
Ossining's children and families.

WE THANK YOU!
John & Connie Curran

