Family Day Raises Awareness

On Saturday, June 13, several hundred Glen Cove residents were able to receive information about local services and programs that promote family health, family unity and a substance abuse-free family environment. The eighth annual Family Awareness Day, sponsored by the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition, was a tremendous success. Carnival games, prizes, DJ music, food and a spectacular substance abuse prevention program performed by a professional stunt cyclist on a beautiful sunny day at Morgan Park was enjoyed by all who attended.

On behalf of SAFE, we wish to thank area businesses, city and local agencies and volunteers who helped to make this possible: The North Shore Historical Museum, The Anti-Tobacco Action Coalition of Long Island, the Glen Cove Boys and Girls Club, Kiwanis Club of Glen Cove, Glen Cove Day Care Center, Wilson's Martial Arts, chiropractor Maxine Cappel-Mayreis, GMA Martial Arts, Economic Opportunity Council

(EOC), Apple Bank, Risa's Smiley Time Kiddie, High Function Family, Glen Cove YMCA, The Safe Center, Child Health Plus, Long Island Coalition for Bullying, Affinity Health Care, Nassau County Council of Girl Scouts and Glen Cove Youth Bureau's After 3 program.

Generous donations from SAFE board and staff members, Astoria Federal Savings Bank, the City of Glen Cove, PSEG, the Glen Cove Printery, the Gold Coast Gazette, the Glen Cove United Methodist Church, Panera Bread, Dunkin' Donuts, Young's Farm, The View Grill, Page One Restaurant, Delicious Pizza, Frank's Beer & Soda, Vito's Pizza and Sal's Pizza, which provided free advertising, entertainment and food. Raffle prizes that promoted family togetherness and community involvement included The Downtown Cafe, Starbucks, OGI Nails, Gonzalo's American Cafe, Long Island Children's Museum, Glen Cove Diner, Charles Hardware, Rising Tide, NY Jets, Adventure Land, YMCA, St. Rocco Bakery, Circleline, Glen Cove Diner, Ben's, La Famiglia, Pamper Aesthetics, Fabulous Nail and Spa, Cosmo Soccer, NY Giants, Tiny Prints, Brooklyn Cyclones, Stop & Shop, Long Island Ducks, Chicago Cubs, Staples and the Glen Cove Fire Department.

This year's event was chaired by SAFE board member Ann Marie Gailius with the support of the FAD

Planning Committee that included SAFE staff: Sharon Harris, Ashley Ferrufino, Laurent Caballero, Spiro Tsirkas and Patti Averopoulos. Coalition volunteers included: Donna Christ, Mary Cooper and Mary Berhang. Event volunteers included SAFE Board members Georgie Connett, Mary Cooper, Rev. William Wendler, Tony Jimenez, Larry Fischer and Mary Berhang. Community volunteers included Adam Weiner, Steven Shewach, Roseanne Suozzi, Cassandra Benitez, Christina Weise, Kiwanis Key Club students Kyneshia Beverly, Shanice Giles, Jennifer Benitez, Camille Lawrence.

A special thank you to attendees Mayor Reginald Spinello, City Councilmen Anthony Gallo and Efraim Spagnoletti; Glen Cove Parks & Recreation Department, who not only helped with the use of Morgan Park, but the department's Director Darcy Belyea and staff José Benitez and Cipriano Yanes graciously assisted with event preparations and set-up, which greatly contributed to a very successful event.

The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition is grateful for the opportunity to educate the community on the risks of substance abuse and to provide prevention materials and healthy alternatives that are available to our children and families.

—Georgie Connett, SAFE Board Chair