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Kudos...

...To The **Music Conservatory of Westchester** in White Plains, the recipient of The ASCAP Foundation Barbara and John LoFrumento Award. The \$10,000 award enables the Conservatory's Music Therapy Institute (MTI) to expand its program, providing weekly sessions to special needs students in the Eastchester School District. MTI now partners with eight school districts in the county, providing music therapy programs for their students with special needs.

Established by ASCAP CEO John LoFrumento and his wife, Barbara, the award makes it possible for the conservatory to reach out to young students who might otherwise not have an opportunity to experience music and its healing abilities. The children with special needs – including autistic spectrum disorders, learning and emotional delays, and speech and language delays – are offered the program during the school day with classmates, special educators, music educators, and teaching aides.

The Music Therapy Institute's faculty works with the district's self-contained classes, designing and implementing a therapeutic program that will meet each student's developmental needs. Music therapists use a variety of techniques to engage the children in meaningful, music-making experiences. Through songwriting, vocal exploration, and instrumental activities, the students are encouraged to improve musical skill development and address areas such as communication and language development, socialization, emotional develop-

ment, and self-expression.

"We are thrilled to receive such national recognition by the ASCAP Foundation in support of our Music Therapy Institute," Conservatory Executive Director Carol Shiffman said. "We are committed to providing an excellent music education for students of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities and are eager to further develop our music therapy program with the help of this award."

In order to maintain their programs, however, the conservatory must continually seek additional funding sources.

"The number of students and programs seeking our services continues to grow each year, as does the need for scholarship assistance and program support," Shiffman said.

In addition to The ASCAP Foundation honor, the conservatory received a Community Grant award of \$1,500 from CVS Caremark in support of its Music Therapy Institute.

The Music Conservatory of Westchester is at 216 Central Ave. Registration is always open and financial assistance is available for qualifying students. For more information, call 761-3900 or visit musicconservatory.org. You can also follow the conservatory on Facebook (Westchester Music Conservatory) and Twitter (@MusicCW) or check out its new blog (www.musicconservatoryblog.org).



ASCAP CEO John LoFrumento (right) and his wife Barbara (left) present The ASCAP Foundation Barbara and John LoFrumento Award to Lisa Sandagata, director of outreach services for the Music Conservatory of Westchester's Music Therapy Institute. Conservatory