



ABILITY BEYOND DISABILITY

The
Silver
Lining
Gala

An EVENING of
HOPE and PROMISE

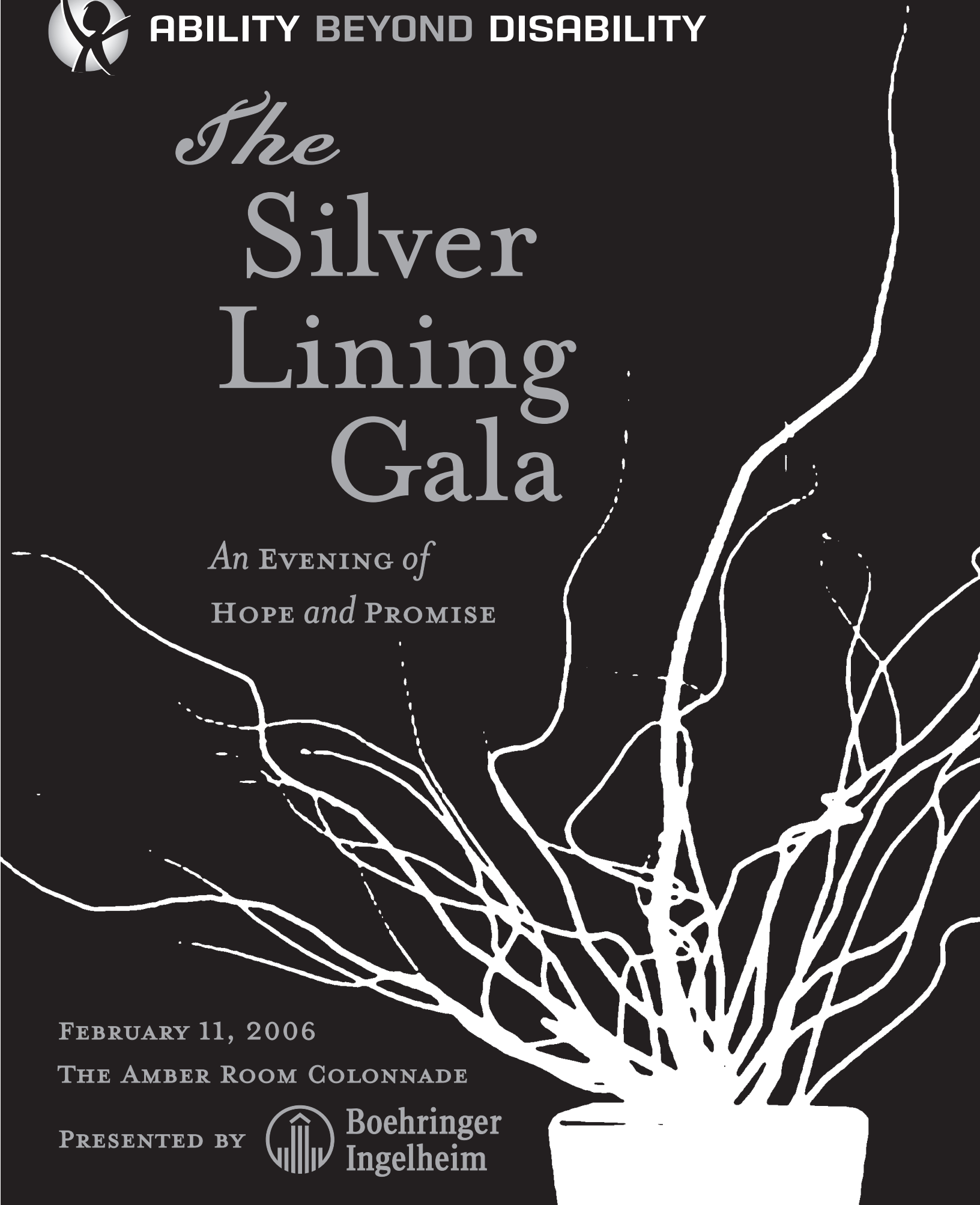
FEBRUARY 11, 2006

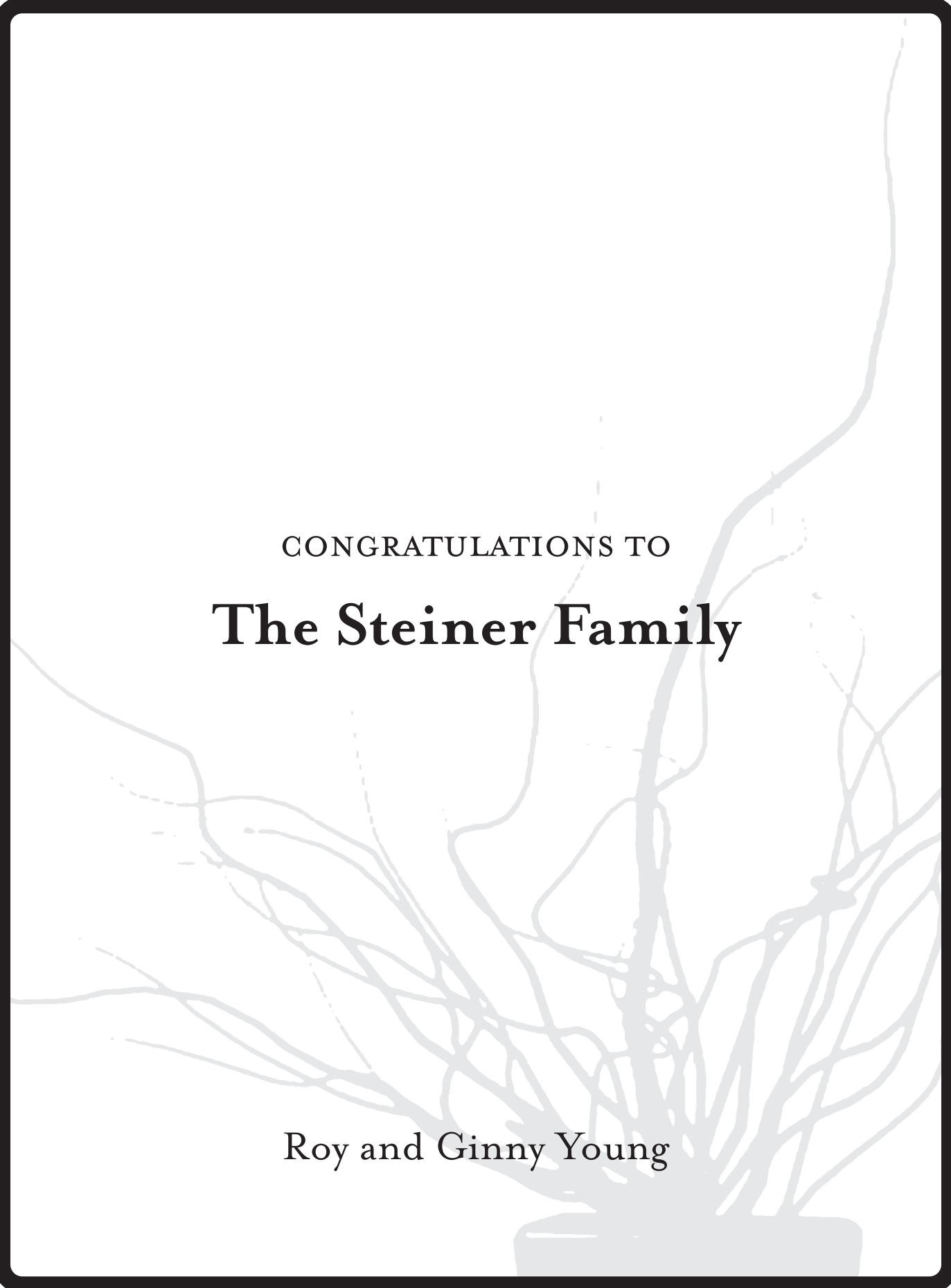
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CONGRATULATIONS TO

The Steiner Family

Roy and Ginny Young

The Silver Lining Gala

SCHEDULE

- 7:00 COCKTAIL RECEPTION
 SILENT AUCTION
- 7:55 SILENT AUCTION CLOSING
- 8:15 WELCOME
 Gail & David Matthews, Gala Co-Chairs
- LIVE AUCTION
 Champion Auctioneer June DeLair
- INTRODUCTION TO
 ABILITY BEYOND DISABILITY
 Thomas H. Fanning, President & CEO
- PRESENTATION OF
 ROBERT S. YOUNG HUMANITARIAN AWARD
 by Thomas H. Fanning,
 Charles R. Perrin, Chairman of the Board and
 Roy Young, Board of Directors,
 to the Steiner Family
- VIDEO PRESENTATION
 A Family's Story
- LEND A HAND...FUND A HOME LIVE AUCTION
 Champion Auctioneer June DeLair
- 9:30 PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
 Reverend Phyllis J. Leopold
- DINNER
- DANCING UNTIL MIDNIGHT



The Silver Lining Gala

February 11, 2006

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Silver Lining Gala! It is an honor and privilege for us to serve as Co-Chairs of tonight's special event. This Gala has brought us in touch with many gifted and talented people who have opened their hearts to Ability Beyond Disability and more importantly, to the many people they serve. It is also our pleasure to honor the Steiner Family, who has contributed enormously, of their personal and professional resources to further advance the mission of the organization. We are privileged to know the Steiners and are truly humbled by their contributions.



We are charting a course, this year, of major transition. We have successfully settled into our new corporate headquarters at Berkshire Boulevard and are looking ahead to exciting challenges as we complete plans for growth, find innovative ways to promote and finance our community integration, and respond to special funding initiatives from government sources. In light of the continuing decline in state and federal funding, it is vital to our mission that we continue to build relationships with the private sector and the community at large. All gifts, no matter what size, make an impression on the daily lives and activities of our consumers. The funds raised from this Gala will benefit the people we serve, people just like us, who happen to have a disability, to experience the fulfillment and comfort of independent living in a safe, secure environment; find jobs and participate, fully, in a life of their own. Your presence here tonight is a testament to our community – to the caring, kind and supportive people who show concern for those in need. It has been our pleasure to become fully acquainted with the consumers from Ability Beyond Disability and the staff who work with them.

An event as grand as this, takes a team of many dedicated volunteers. We want to personally thank the 48, plus, incredible committee members who gave, unselfishly of their time, talents and skills to benefit the organization. The success of an evening of this magnitude is a significant accomplishment that required the dedication and cooperation of many individuals, all of whom deserve special mention.

We would also like to thank, with immense appreciation and respect, the staff of the Development Office, and all the employees from Ability Beyond Disability who are volunteering tonight to help this evening be one we will all remember.

So as we gather tonight to celebrate – the success of a beautiful evening, delicious food, tantalizing prizes, fabulous decorations, wonderful music, and the words from many caring people who have made a solid commitment to this cause – we thank you. Thank you to the many new faces, and the familiar ones from Galas past, and welcome everyone to the Silver Lining Gala, an evening of Hope and Promise.

With warm regard and admiration,

Gail and David Matthews
Gala Co-Chairs

PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

This award is given in memory of Robert S. Young, a former volunteer leader and President of Ability Beyond Disability, formerly known as Datahr Rehabilitation Institute.

Mr. Young contributed beyond measure to find the "Ability Beyond Disability" in those we serve.

THESE ARE THE FORMER AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Nathan Ancell

June Goodman

Gino Arconti

Ervie Jr., Carolyn Hawley & Family

Fred Baker & Lisa Powers

Skitch & Ruth Henderson

People of Boehringer Ingelheim

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Carlos Castillo

Henry J. & Erna D. Leir

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Rita C. Thal

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Roy Young

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The Silver Lining Gala

TONIGHT'S HONOREES

THE STEINER FAMILY



The Steiner family and their Berkshire Corporate Park are being honored tonight for their long-term involvement in local activities and their extraordinary generosity and expertise in enhancing the move of Ability Beyond Disability's headquarters from Brookfield to Bethel. The family's commitment to giving back to local communities has improved the quality of life for thousands of Connecticut residents.

If Ernest Steiner Sr. had been a less efficient pastry chef in the first half of last century, there wouldn't be a Steiner Inc., Berkshire Corporate Park and an efficient, new Ability Beyond Disability headquarters.

But he was efficient. So efficient, in fact, that he completed all his baking tasks in the morning and had afternoons free to build a home for his family. And since his home design and construction talents matched his culinary genius, Fairfield area residents soon took notice of his "second career" skills and demand for Steiner homes grew faster than his pastry creations rose in ovens.

This, in turn, led to the formation of Steiner Inc, and, over time, the active involvement of Ernest Sr.'s sons, Ernest Jr., and Richard; grandchildren, Roy Steiner, Greg Steiner and Kathy Braden; and a great grandson, Chris Steiner. Equally important by-products were an expansion into office construction, the development of Berkshire Corporate Park and the renovation of its main building to create a new headquarters for Ability Beyond Disability.

continues next page...

Along the way, the family's expertise and generosity have made positive differences in the lives of thousands of Connecticut residents. Steiner homes and residential developments have transformed portions of Fairfield, Trumbull and Monroe, and Steiner Inc. spurred growth along the Route 25 corridor. The firm has also brought its expertise to the Greater Danbury area, most notably through its development of Berkshire Corporate Park.

In addition, members of the family have been active in the Danbury, Bethel and Monroe Chambers of Commerce, as well as professional organizations. Richard was president of the local and state Home Builders Association and Area I (New England) and chairman of the Commercial Builders Council. Roy has been active in the Home Builders Association, the Housatonic Valley Economic Development Partnership and the Bethel Building Committee. Greg is a member of the National Association for Commercial Real Estate and an active volunteer in the Brookfield Youth Soccer Program. Other Steiner family activities include building a soccer field, a skateboard park and dugouts for baseball fields and participating in Hospice and Danbury Hospital Development Fund programs.



This commitment to improving the quality of life in communities in which it does business has also positively affected Ability Beyond Disability, its staff and consumers. "The Steiner family couldn't have been more generous or helpful to us," said Ability Beyond Disability President & CEO Thomas H. Fanning. "They spent considerable time and money rebuilding the facility's interior to allow for state-of-the-art technology and a totally seamless move from our former headquarters. And ongoing Steiner counsel is enabling us to make maximum use out of each square foot in the building."

The Steiner family's generosity and ability to make a positive difference exemplifies the community spirit that the Robert S. Young Humanitarian Award was established to promote. 🐾



The Silver Lining Gala

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to our 2006 Gala!

With the leadership of our Gala Co-chairs, Gail and David Matthews, and the dedicated efforts of our Gala committee, this year's event promises to be the best ever.

Since 1953, Ability Beyond Disability has been enabling people with disabilities to fulfill their dreams in our communities. Over all these years, we have been blessed with the generous support of individuals, corporations, small businesses and foundations...all sharing the belief that people with disabilities are an important element of any community...all supporting the dreams of the people we serve. We are grateful to you for being with us tonight and joining our family of supporters.



Tonight we recognize another family, the Steiners. From generation to generation, the Steiner family demonstrates a commitment to hard work, honesty and fairness in their extremely successful business ventures. It is, however, their humility and their willingness to share their good fortune with others that truly sets them apart. In big ways and in little ways, the members of this family are committed to making the world a better place for all of us. Ability Beyond Disability is able to fulfill people's dreams because of people like the Steiners. We are proud to honor them with the Robert S. Young Humanitarian Award.

Have a wonderful evening!

Thomas Fanning,

President & CEO

Ability Beyond Disability

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased and honored to welcome you to the Silver Lining Gala. As its name states – it is truly a night of hope and promise. The Board would also like to extend its appreciation to Gail and David Matthews for their outstanding leadership and to their entire committee for putting together such a remarkable and lovely event.

I hope you have a wonderful time this evening – one you will treasure all throughout the year. I also hope that in some way we will touch your hearts with the story we have to tell. It is a story of courage repeated over and over as people struggle and fight to achieve a life that you and I take for granted.



Over the years, many of you have expressed the desire that we find a way for you to be able to “give back” during this event. This year, we have added some opportunities for you to do so. From the silent auction to the live auction, our Gala committee has found prizes that we think will inspire and entice you – and in the process you can express your desire to make a difference by bidding as philanthropically as you wish. We have also added something we call “Lend a Hand, Fund a Home.” This is a venue for people who wish to give directly to our mission.

Thank you again for coming. Enjoy the evening.

Best wishes,



Charles R. Perrin

Chairman of the Board



The Silver Lining Gala

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The Silver Lining Gala

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TONIGHT'S ARRANGEMENTS

MENU

The Amber Room Colonnade

GARDE MANGER

A fabulous display of fresh fruit, crisp vegetable crudité's with assorted dips and antipasto platters, hot spreads and cold canapés, domestic and international cheeses, baked brie with raspberry sauce, and a full assortment of hot hors d'oeuvres.

FIRST COURSE

Baby Field Greens with Crumbled Gorgonzola Cheese, Candied Walnuts and Dried Cranberries.

ENTREE

Filet Mignon and Stuffed Shrimp with Duchess Potatoes and Haricot Verts

DESSERT

New York Style Black-Out Cheesecake

AV SUPPORT

Active Video Productions

PHOTOGRAPHY

Shel Secunda Photography

ENTERTAINMENT

Nik and the Nice Guys
Woodruff Music – Jazz Quintet

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*Special Thanks to the gracious staff at The Amber Room Colonnade
for helping to make this evening so spectacular.*



The Silver Lining Gala

ABILITY BEYOND DISABILITY

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OUR HISTORY

Fifty-three years of making a positive difference in the lives of people with disabilities. Thousands of dreams realized. And the promise that more advances are to follow.

A small group of parents generated the critical hope and promise. Now their energy, dedication and vision are taking the Ability Beyond Disability dream into the new century – and more communities.

It started in 1953 in a small section of Connecticut. The catalysts were just a handful of parents with little more in the way of resources than love of their children and some scattered hours of free time. But they had a vision, too: that their children and others with similar disabilities could one day lead independent lives in a community of their choice. They also believed there is strength and comfort in numbers, plus synergetic benefits when concerned parents pool their expertise, share dreams and build ... They were right.

Their vision led to the creation of Datahr Rehabilitation Institute, now known as Ability Beyond Disability. And in the years between 1953 and 2006, the agency has grown into a leading provider of home, health, employment and rehabilitation services to individuals in Connecticut and Northern Westchester County, NY whose independent living skills are impaired by disability, illness or injury. Each of those years was marked by stories once deemed “the impossible dream.”

FOR EXAMPLE

“Our son spent more than 30 years in an institution doing little more than roaming the halls. Then we took him to Ability Beyond Disability. He now lives independently with a roommate, has a good job and requires no more than one hour per week of support.”

“We employ more than 30 Ability Beyond Disability consumers in our headquarters building. They show up every day with great attitudes and they get their work done. There are no bad hair days; only smiles and good rapport with our other employees.”

“I’m leaving the sheltered workshop for a job in the community. I AM SO OUTTA HERE!!!”

“I once was hesitant about having people with a developmental disability or serious brain injury living next door. But not any more. They’re good neighbors.”

“Who would have thought I’d ever be in a play. But thanks to Ability Beyond Disability’s recreation program, 20 or so other consumers and I performed before an audience at the Northern Westchester Center for the Arts.”

continues next page...



The Silver Lining Gala

"I'm a person with a developmental disability who is normal because I'm living a normal life. I have a job and I moved to White Plains because that's where the action is."

Operating out of Connecticut and Westchester headquarters in Bethel and Mount Kisco, Ability Beyond Disability now serves approximately 800 people each year at some 400 diversified sites. Its services include numerous residential alternatives, employment training, career counseling, job placement, cognitive and life skills instruction, clinical and therapeutic support, and volunteer and recreational activities. And although space limitations preclude a longer list of the agency's accomplishments over the years, the following are especially worth noting:

- The introduction of the first Traumatic Brain Injury Program in Connecticut.
- Being the first agency in Connecticut – and subsequently New York (at the invitation of the State) – to serve people with traumatic brain injuries through a residential program.
- Completely eliminating isolating sheltered workshops and placing all job-seeking consumers into positions at local workplaces.
- Receiving the highest rating possible by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for its employment and residential services. And not just once; each time we were rated.
- Conducting a 50th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign that exceeded its ambitious goal by more than 20 percent.

Also worth citing are the people responsible for the accomplishments; the agency's staff, board members and community partners. The Ability Beyond Disability staff has been dedicated, creative, efficient and loyal; with a turnover rate that is 45% lower than the national average for direct care staff. The individuals that the agency has been privileged to have as board members have been remarkably effective as the shapers of fiscally sound management practices – and extremely generous in supporting its programs over the years. And our community friends have been valuable volunteers in addition to creating a receptive climate for our consumers as workers and neighbors that is second to none in the United States.

But most important of all have been the thousands of consumers we've served and their families. *They* are the ones whose willingness to aim high and whose tenacity in achieving goals have sent messages of hope and promise to countless others. They are the ones to whom this Gala is dedicated. 🐾

“Lend-a-Hand, Fund-A-Home”

BRINGS NEW MEANING TO THE WORD “HOME”

“Positive attitudes about how and where a person with a disability lives really make a difference,” says Ability Beyond Disability President & CEO Thomas H. Fanning.

That explains the philosophy behind “Lend-a-Hand, Fund-a-Home,” a fundraising program for providing consumers with the anchor, comfort and support of a good home through the renovation of Ability Beyond Disability housing in Connecticut and New York.

“We believe in the phrase coined by Benjamin Franklin in the late 18th century: ‘A house is not a home unless it contains food and fire for the mind as well as the body’,” Fanning notes. “By providing living arrangements in which our consumers feel comfortable and good about themselves, we’re making it easier for them to find jobs, make new friends and acclimate to their communities. They leave their homes each morning with a smile and their positive attitudes send messages of hope and promise throughout the community.”

This year’s projects supported by “Lend-a-Hand, Fund-a-Home” include repairing roofs, putting in new kitchens, constructing accessible ramps for wheelchair users, installing flooring that is easy to maintain and stands up to wheelchair use, installing energy efficient windows, excavating, landscaping and more.

With Ability Beyond Disability consumers currently residing in more than 100 homes, condos and apartments throughout Connecticut and New York, home repairs add up to hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. Tonight’s first ever Gala Live Auction will create a powerful launch for the “Lend-a-Hand, Fund-a-Home” program and enhance Ability Beyond Disability’s ability to make a house a home for hundreds of people. 🍀



The Silver Lining Gala

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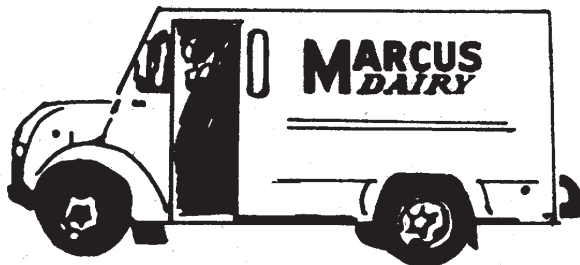
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*Pinney Payne, P.C. would like to extend
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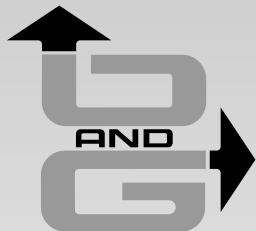
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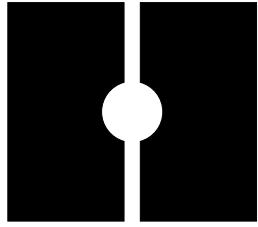
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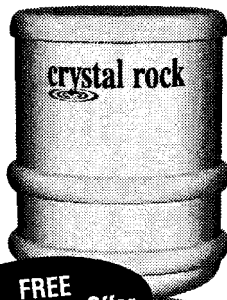
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