

Easter Seals Eastern Pennsylvania 2009 VIP Recognition Awards

Celebrating A Deeply Felt Commitment to Easter Seals



Rob and Kristen Bennett, of Bennett Automotive Group. Rob's support began because of one special customer.

People often comment that **Rob Bennett** is a good listener and cares about his customers. The day he met Bill Gasdaska, Rob really was listening. He heard about Mary Ellen who was born with spina bifida and the therapy she was receiving at Easter Seals. Rob knew that he wanted to support Bill and his daughter by volunteering with Easter Seals – which he did by chairing the Mary Ellen Golf Tournament in 1992 and raised over \$35,000 that year for Easter Seals.

Since that time, Rob has continued his philanthropy, quietly and without any need of favor or special acknowledgment. This year, Rob stepped up as a sponsor for the annual Easter Seals Walk With Me event. And Kristen Bennett, Rob's wife, joined the Easter Seals family as our Master of Ceremonies, kicking off the walking event alongside Ferrous, the Iron Pigs mascot.



For Tony and Norene Salvaggio it's all about a commitment to children.

Tony and Norene Salvaggio have a love for kids that drives their commitment to Easter Seals. Like the Bennetts, the Salvaggios prefer to remain below the radar. Their support of Easter Seals is deeply personal and they just don't want to be cooed over and coddled.

Those who know Tony understand that he is a hard-driving individual. Add to this his compassion for children and he is truly a force to be reckoned with. Tony first chaired the Mary Ellen Golf Tournament in 1995 and has been heading up the event ever since. That's 14 years during which he has helped to raise over \$1 million for Easter Seals. But that's just one aspect of his commitment.

Add to this his annual "Helping Hands" program, when he challenges all of his Computer Aid employees to make a difference, plus the personal philanthropy of Tony and Norene and the support is basically overwhelming.

The Salvaggios have a love and desire for children to be healthy and educated. Perhaps they feel that anyone of us could have a child who tomorrow, would need the services and support of our local Easter Seals.



The **Air Products Volunteers** work tirelessly for Easter Seals. Staff often share stories of the Easter Seals kids with the Air Products Volunteers because the APV team is part of the Easter Seals family. They too are motivated by the Easter Seals mission and what is often labor-intensive work becomes a labor of love. Just don't get in their way. They've got a system that works and works very well.

Recognized for their volunteerism the Air Products Volunteers also received citations and congratulations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate.