

# **“We’re More Than Realtors in Long Beach, N.Y. . . . . Vol. III No. 3**

“We’re More Than Realtors in Long Beach, N.Y. . . . . Vol. III No. 3

## **Third Annual Free Echocardiogram & EKG Screening**

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Long Beach, New York Middle School hosted the third annual Free Echocardiogram & EKG Screening program to all eighth graders who are planning to participate in District Sports to identify any Heart/Cardiac abnormalities.

The program is administered by Dr. Rubin Cooper, new director of Pediatric Cardiology at Cohen’s Children’s Medical Center of NY (formerly Schneider’s) and sponsored by fellow Realtor Susan Gruen Helsinger, founder of the Jason F. Gruen Research Foundation.

The program coordinators are Arnie Epstein, Long Beach School District Director of Health & Athletics, along with Barbara Young (District Head Nurse) and her very capable Nursing staff.

Liaison under the “We’re More than Realtors” program is LIBOR Director Neil Sterrer who received the LIBOR 2010 Community Service Award for his efforts over the past 5 years.

The May 7<sup>th</sup> event brought 48 student athletes, along with their parents, to Long Beach Middle School to be screened. Continental Breakfast, along with bagels and cream cheese, was provided by Carrie Bleck of Max Bialystok (Long Beach).

Dr. Scott Pilgram (Pediatric Cardiologist) of Cohen’s Medical Center oversaw the screening event.

School nurses Lori Montgomery, Mary Beth Thurston and Elizabeth Leibowitz assisted head nurse Barbara Young.

A few of the students screened were Alekos Mesiouris & Aaron Thompson.

Also attending were LIBOR public relations director Tricia Chirco, School Board VP Pat Gallagher, District Health & Athletic Director Arnie Epstein, City of Long Beach Public Relations Director Mary Giambalvo, Legislator Denise Ford along with her photographer Cliff Ament, Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg and founder Susan Gruen Helsinger.

As previously mentioned, 48 students were not only screened with an echocardiogram machine but with a new, highly sensitive EKG apparatus.

8 Students were found to have some type of heart abnormality with 1 needing immediate consultation with the doctor.

In light of the sudden death of 16 year old Long Beach Basketball player Shakur Moore on January 27<sup>th</sup> of this year at the MLK Center, it makes this screening program invaluable.

Almost 150 students have been screened over the past 3 years, with 12 lives saved. Over 1600 have been screened in 5 school districts with over 30 lives saved.

In the past decade, almost 100 reported sudden deaths in athletes have occurred from undiagnosed cardiac abnormalities.

We hope to continue to bring this free program to the Long Beach School District.



















