

## Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame

### Archive Project – *Inception to Induction*

#### **The Hagedorn Little Village School, Jack Joel Center for Special Education**

Year of Founding: 1969

Issue(s) Addressed: Children, Special Education, Learning Disabilities

Induction Category and Year: Special Needs, 2002

Founders: Dr. Caryl Bank and Dr. Barbara Feingold

**Personal Quote:** One parent whose son had attended the school for five years wrote, “Thanks to Dr. Caryl Bank and Dr. Barbara Feingold, for over 30 years Long Island families have had a place for their children with special needs to learn and develop. They give our children not just the best education, but also a loving, caring and fun environment. This helps our children to develop, grow, and blossom.”

**History:** Dr. Caryl Bank and Dr. Barbara Feingold began their careers as special education teachers in the New York City education system. There, they soon realized that their students might have benefited from an early diagnosis of their learning disabilities, which would have channeled them into therapy and remedial programs in their pre-school and early grade school years. Because pre-schools for children with learning disabilities were rare at that time, they recognized the importance of creating their own program to address this pressing need.

Their project first began with the creation of what they called simply the Little Village School in 1969. Although the program initially started with only three pre-school aged children in a “one room school house,” as more parents recognized its importance in teaching young students with learning disabilities, its enrollment quickly grew and it required ever-larger facilities. As it developed, it also expanded from its initial focus on working with pre-school age children; it received a charter from the New York State Board of Regents to teach and assist grade school children as well.

As of Dr. Caryl Bank’s and Dr. Barbara Feingold’s 2002 induction into the Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame, the since renamed Hagedorn Little Village School Jack Joel Center for Special Education has served over 400 children with a wide array of developmental, emotional, learning disabilities. Although the school’s founders retired following its fortieth anniversary in 2009, its mission continues as the program continues to grow to serve the needs of Long Island’s special needs children.

**Agency Mission:** “The mission of HLVS is to provide the finest educational and therapeutic programs for infants and young children with a wide range of developmental disabilities. These disabilities may include cognitive delays, social/emotional deficits, autistic spectrum disorders,

speech/language delays, orthopedic and/or motor impairments, visual impairments, and/or significant medical issues.”

**Scope of Activities:** The HLVS is a publicly funded non-profit foundation dedicated to providing educational and therapeutic services for children with a wide array of special needs, including cognitive delays, social/emotional deficits, autistic spectrum disorders, speech/language delays, orthopedic and/or motor impairments, visual impairments and/or significant medical issues. It provides year-long services and helps children ranging in age from pre-school through elementary school. In addition to at-school programming, it also offers at-home therapy and counseling for infants and very young children.

**Volunteer Involvement:** Although the HLVS has a paid staff, it has had a Volunteer training program since 1980.

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Submitted by Colin Walfield, Summer 2010

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