

8 East 69th Street  
New York, NY 10021  
Phone/Fax: 212-861-8480  
E-mail: iwline@msn.com  
www.italianwelfareleague.org



*Pictured above: Lauryn Acosta received assistance for medicine and transfusions from the League.*

*Welcome to the latest edition of the Italian Welfare League's newsletter. As I assume the duties of President of the Italian Welfare League, I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to my predecessor Bea Tusiani, who will now serve as Chair. She has been a mentor and friend to many and her dedication and commitment to the League is truly extraordinary. I also want to thank Diana Femia, our outgoing Chair for her many years of dedication.*

*Since it was conceived eight years ago, the IWL's Nostri Bambini campaign has raised and donated over \$300,000 among 225 children of Italian descent. In 2008, we raised over \$100,000, a record for the League. Today, more than ever, these families need our support. As our reputation grows, so do the many requests. There are so many deserving families who need our help, especially during these challenging times. Working families, whose health insurance does not pay for such basic items as orthotics, occupational therapy, and specialized strollers, have minimal resources to turn to for help.*

*I am grateful to be working with such an incredible Board of Directors who inspire me every day to work a little harder on behalf of "I Nostri Bambini." Nothing is more gratifying than receiving a heartfelt thank you letter from a parent and seeing the smiling faces of the children. I look forward to the year ahead, ready for the challenge that lies ahead of us, confident that we will achieve our goals and make a significant difference in the lives of these children and their families.*

*Saluti,*

*Linda Carlozzi*

*President*

## NOSTRI BAMBINI BY EMILIO L. VOZZOLO

Christmas 2008 was definitely one to remember, especially with the current economic situation. The Italian Welfare League however, was able to collaborate with Pace University's Collegiate Italian American Organization (CIAO) again in raising money and collecting gifts to donate to one recipient of the Nostri Bambini program, Anthony Turturro.

CIAO which also volunteers at our Annual Fall Luncheon, raised money to purchase Christmas gifts for Anthony. The IWL was impressed with the efforts of the students in CIAO, and

donated \$100 towards the purchase of additional gifts.

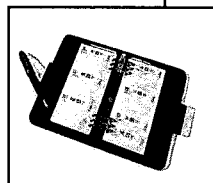
The League visited the Turturro family along with two students of CIAO and a Pace Alumna in December and again in January, and were very impressed with Anthony's progress. Since his bike accident in 2004, Anthony has undergone various operations, and recently began walking with the help of a cane. He has a strong passion for learning and writing, and since he was so thankful for the gifts he received, he recently wrote a letter of thanks to the League.

Next year with the help of

the Junior League, IWL intends to reach out to more universities to get them involved as well. This year was a very positive experience for Anthony, who was very thankful, and the students who really worked together.



*Anthony Turturro, 16 years old, pictured*



**Save the date!!!**  
**'Autumn in NY Luncheon'**  
**October 17, 2009**  
**St. Regis Hotel**

# LEAGUE NOTES

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## IN MEMORIAM: ANTOINETTE GIAIMO BY DIANA FEMIA

Antoinette Giaimo was an active member of the Italian Welfare League for 58 years, joining in 1950, serving tirelessly in so many different capacities.

Since she spoke Italian, she initially volunteered to help at the New York piers when she learned that Italian immigrants were being mistreated and neglected at the Port of New York. On behalf of the League, she assisted in its successful efforts to facilitate the transition into a new culture, language and life style of thousands of Italian immigrants.

During her tenure as president, beginning in 1971, she was instrumental in raising thousands of dollars for the Italian Welfare

League's through efforts such as the gala Titiana Balls, which were held at The Plaza. The IWL was able to donate \$15,000 to St. John's University to help establish a chair of Italian Studies, as well as award scholarships. Under her leadership, the League undertook new initiatives such as distributing checks to the needy at Christmas, food baskets for senior citizens and founding a school to teach Italian students office and business procedures.

She was invited by the Little Italy Restoration Association (LIRA) to assist in the restoration of Little Italy, along with Chase Manhattan Bank and many prominent Italian businessmen. She was invested as a

Dame of Malta in 1981. In October of 2001, the Italian Welfare League honored her with a Lifetime Achievement Award at their annual Autumn in New York Luncheon.

Mrs. Giaimo expanded the visibility and prominence of the Italian Welfare League in the Italian American community in New York City. She was an important and vital part of the League's wonderful history.

Mrs. Giaimo is survived by her daughter, Janet Vitale, who is also a member of the League and her son, Robert. She was predeceased by her husband, Edward, and her son, Edward, Jr.



*Antoinette Giaimo, life long member and former president of Italian Welfare League.*



*Alexia Trimarchi, pictured above, on her Freedom Bicycle purchased for her by the League*

## WE'RE COOKING SOMETHING UP BY ZELLA PIRELLO

Last year, we endeavored to create a members keepsake for the League and friends. With the help of Nan Seandel, a subcommittee has been hard at work assembling the Italian Welfare League's very own cookbook. Through mailings and our website, we've

received delicious recipes that family members have handed down from generation to generation. When the book is complete, it will be sold as a fundraiser but it will also be a peek into the lives of the hearts and souls who've been associated with the League from past

and present. Please look for updates on the release of our cookbook on our website in the coming months.

