

NYU Child Study Center Receives Its Largest Gift Ever

MICHAEL STATFELD RECANATI AND IRA STATFELD RECANATI have made an extraordinary gift of \$30 million — the largest single contribution ever received by the NYU Child Study Center — to establish the Asperger Institute. The institute will offer educational programs, clinical services, and research into a class of pervasive developmental disorders that affect mainly boys. The donors, both of whom serve on the center's Board of Directors, share the belief that the institute is poised to make "dramatic, tangible improvements in quality of life for families with children who have Asperger syndrome." The Asperger Institute was founded to become a national resource center for families with children afflicted by this disorder.

Asperger syndrome causes a variety of symptoms: acute sensitivity to sounds and smells, such mannerisms as repeti-

tive hand twisting or flapping, and problems coping with social situations. People with Asperger avoid eye contact and can abruptly turn away from the person with whom they are having a conversation. These individuals may be gifted and show exceptional skill in one area or may be extremely preoccupied with one subject. Some symptoms appear as mild forms of autism. Both Asperger and autism belong to the poorly understood class of disorders called pervasive developmental disorders.

Faculty and staff at the new institute plan to use the funds to seek better treatments for Asperger syndrome. Some \$20 million of the gift will flow into educational programs, clinical services, and research geared toward deciphering the underlying causes and genetic facets of this disorder. The remaining \$10 million will support the construction of the

state-of-the-art Child Study Center building, scheduled to open in 2009.

One educational plan seeks to develop an innovative learning program for children in grades 8 through 12, refining educational strategies to accommodate the children's individuality. Michael and Ira Statfeld Recanati are hopeful that this approach will ultimately enable children to achieve their full potential. The institute will employ neuroimaging and neuropsychological studies to evaluate patients and develop specialized clinical treatment approaches. And the NYU Child Study Center will provide a unique training ground for professionals working with patients who have neuro-developmental difficulties.

According to Harold S. Koplewicz, M.D., Founder and Director of the NYU Child Study Center and Chairman of the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the center is also assembling a team of experts to identify the genes that contribute to this disorder. "By building on cutting-edge research findings," he says, "the clinician-investigators at the Asperger Institute will lead the field in developing novel collaborative methods of treatment."

Child Study Center Benefit Raises \$6.5 Million

The NYU Child Study Center hosted its Ninth Annual Child Advocacy Award Dinner on December 4, honoring philanthropists Stanley and Fiona Druckenmiller for their commitment to organizations and programs that foster the success and well-being of New York's

children. Chaired by Goldman Sachs President and COO Gary Cohn and his wife Lisa Pevaroff-Cohn, this year's dinner raised more than \$6.5 million—up 63 percent from last year's gala—to support the Child Study Center's work.



RIGHT, TOP: HONOREE FIONA DRUCKENMILLER AND CSC BOARD CHAIRWOMAN BROOKE GARBNER NEIDICH. BOTTOM: DEAN ROBERT M. GLICKMAN, M.D., ELLEN BARKIN, ACTRESS, HAROLD S. KOPLEWICZ, M.D., AND ELAINE LANGONE, WIFE OF MEDICAL CENTER BOARD CHAIRMAN KENNETH G. LANGONE.