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## Saturday's Feed Me Fresh to Benefit Mt. Kisco Child Care Center

By Martin Wilbur

For the past seven Septembers, the Mount Kisco Child Care Center has held what may be its most important event on the calendar.

Feed Me Fresh: An Edible Evening returns this Saturday, a fun night for guests who get to sample foods from more than 15 of the area's finest restaurants, enjoy live music and dancing, and participate in live and silent auctions in what is the biggest fundraiser for the school each year. The festivities will be held at Ivana Farms in Bedford Corners from 7 to 11 p.m.

As has been the tradition since the inception of Feed Me Fresh, the center will honor a couple of local residents and merchants who have made a major impact on the child care facility and local families in the community. This year's honorees are Curt Beusman, a 55-year Mount Kisco resident who founded the Saw Mill Club and Curtis Instruments and has served on MKCCC's board of directors for more than a decade, and Fran and Isi Albanese, owners of Frannie's Goodie Shop and Bellizzi, who have consistently hosted family-friendly events and made contributions to local charities.

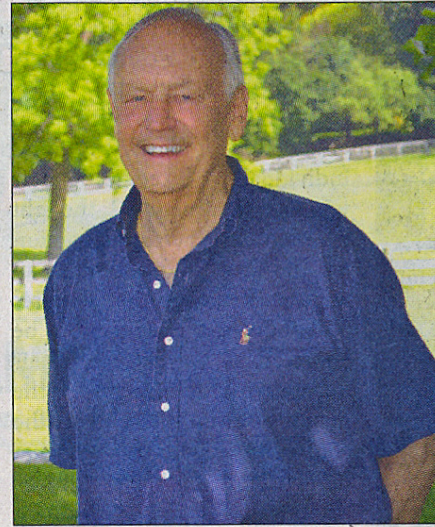
With about half of the families who send their children to the center in need of tuition assistance, raising money to keep MKCCC operating and within reach



Fran and Isi Albanese, left, and Curtis Beusman are this year's honorees at the Mount Kisco Child Care Center's eighth annual Feed Me Fresh event at Ivana Farms in Bedford. Proceeds will go toward scholarship assistance for families who send their children to the center.

of working families is critical, Beusman said. To meet that demand the center must raise more than \$700,000 a year, roughly a quarter of its total operating costs. Proceeds from the evening will be used toward scholarships for families who need assistance.

"We're running a big plant, running close to \$3 million (a year)," said



Beusman, who joined the board with his wife in 2002, served two years as fundraising chairman and established the Jane Beusman Children's Fund after his wife died. "A lot of places don't have what we have, the gardens, a greenhouse; the kids plant food, they interact with the seniors."

In addition to his work on the board

and helping to raise funds, Beusman has also made significant contributions to the center. Mount Kisco Child Care Center, located on Radio Circle, launched in 1971 and provides day care and after-school activities from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays for about 160 children.

Over the years, the Albaneses have run promotions at their businesses where they donate a percentage of their sales to a different charity every three months. Fran Albanese said that they donate 10 percent of their sales and hope to make a positive impact in the community.

The generosity of the honorees and their dedication to the Mount Kisco community hasn't been lost on the center's Executive Director Dottie Jordan.

"We are so thankful to Frances, Isidoro and Curtis for their support over the years," Jordan said. "Feed Me Fresh is an event we look forward to each year and we are delighted to share the opportunity to recognize these admirable friends of the center."

A major sponsor of this year's event is the Manhattan-based financial investment firm Gerstein Fisher, which contributed \$10,000.

Tickets to Feed Me Fresh are \$200 and can be reserved in advance. For further information, contact Patty Black at 914-241-2135 or at [pblack@mkccc.org](mailto:pblack@mkccc.org), or visit [www.mkccc.org](http://www.mkccc.org).