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Center to Celebrate 20-Years of Service

September, 2017 marked the Twentieth Anniversary of the dedication of the Michele A. Logan Family Center at the Raymond School . It opened on Thursday, September 18, 1997.

The Center was founded by PTA friends of Michele Sasso Logan to honor her memory. Michele was a community activist who devoted countless hours to the families of the Raymond School. She served as the Treasurer of the Parent Advisory Committee for 8 years, and was an ever-present resource and support to the school. She was the wife of the late Charles Logan and mother of Jeffrey and Russell.

The Family Center offers programs of interest to parents and children of the community, and serves as a home base for parent activities at the school. The Center was renovated by Eagle Scout candidate Henok Habte-Yimer. Henok is the son of Darlene and Getachew Habte-Yimer. Troop #5 Scoutmaster Mike Dugan, Assistant Scoutmaster Ross Hymon, and Troop Committee

Chair Joseph Sullivan served as resources to the project.

The Michele A. Logan Family Center and the Raymond School PTA together form a source of information and support for all families in the community.

Since its inception, programming has been presented on topics ranging from car seat safety, toddler play groups, literacy events, Haunted Hallways and live performances

Particularly successful has been the Center's Multicultural Series, presenting evening of fun and learning for families on new countries around the world. This is particularly important for a school as diverse as the Raymond, Children are taught to take pride in their heritages, and to teach their peers. Cambodian Dancers, West African Drummers, and Irish Step Dancers have graced the stages of the Raymond.

All events provide food and are free to all. The Center is also a place, serving as a haven for parents to drop in when they are at the school.

A lending library and computer for use by parents is



Michele Sasso Logan

provided.

While the Center is a private 501(c)3 non-profit, supported by donations and grants the Raymond School Principal, Carol McGrath, is a full partner in planning activities and assessing the needs of the school community. Her generous contributions of supplies, equipment, and staff assistance makes our mission easier to meet.

With the changing population of the city of Brockton the needs of the community are changing. This Anniversary is a time of reflection and assessment of our role as we plan for the future.

Meet the New Board Members!



Nancy Tucker

Nancy Tucker joined the Board in July, 2016. She is a niece of Michele Sasso Logan and has been following the Center since its inception. Nancy is employed by the Brockton School Department at Brockton High. She holds a Masters in Education and a C.A.G.S. in Administration. Nancy was an elementary Library Media Specialist for 18 years at the Plouffe and George Schools, and taught 5th Grade at George when Librarians were cut but was pleased to return to a Librarian position this year at Brockton High School. She's been in the BPS for 20 years. Immersed in civic involvement, Nancy is a Lifetime Girl Scout and is the leader of a troop along with Marylou Best. As well as holding several offices in the service unit, she has also coached Special Olympics and is an officer in Alpha Delta Kappa, an International Honor Society for Female Educators. Nancy has received such honors as the Girl Scout Appreciation Pin, Leader of Excellence Award, Girl Scout President's Award and the 2018 Massachusetts Alpha Delta Kappa Excellence in Education Award.



Marylou Piantoni Best

Marylou Piantoni Best is also a long time Girl Scout and co-leader with Nancy. She is a long-time volunteer at both the city and troop level for 14 years. She has also coached the Special Olympics (unified team) when her kids were in school. Marylou worked for over ten years as a parent liaison for the city in a few different schools, so she is a resource in improving parent involvement. She is also an expert crafter, coming up with new ideas and how to use materials wisely. As a community activist, and was instrumental in getting the Champion School their own graduation ceremony. She has been following the Center and is very interested in forming a partnership between her Troop and the school. Marylou's efforts have been recognized in the past by winning the BPS Baroncelli Award, the Girl Scout Appreciation Pin, the Leader of Excellence Award and the Girl Scout President's Award.



Russell J. Logan.

Russell Logan is the son of Michele Sasso Logan and has been a participant in Center activities since he was 4 years old! A product of the Brockton Public school system, Russell graduated from UMASS Dartmouth with dual majors in Accounting and Finance. He has worked at Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. and is presently at IPS Fund Services in Boston. Russell has also managed operations at McCabe and Logan Movers of Randolph. His financial background, dedication to the Center, and knowledge of Brockton and its residents make him a valued asset to the Center.



Yvonne Burdette

Yvonne Burdette is a recent addition to the board and she is very excited to work with the children and families of the Raymond School. Extremely active in the community, Yvonne has been deeply rooted in both the Boy Scout and Girl Scout communities through her two, now adult, children. The center is the perfect way for Yvonne to continue working with people and encouraging community engagement. Yvonne has been employed at the State Street Corporation for over 30 years and is also the recipient of the Girl Scout Appreciation Pin.

*Carla Fernandes*

Carla Fernandes is the newest member of the Board. She has participated in the planning and implementation of Family Center events for many years. Carla is a busy mom of three children. All her children went to the Raymond Elementary and Carla was a very active participant in the Raymond PTA and after they left and attended North Middle School and Brockton High. Two of her children currently are employed through the Brockton Public School system. Carla is currently the building-wide Monitor Teaching Assistant (MTA) for the Raymond School. The duties and responsibilities of this position are varied and change day to day! Some days Carla is providing interventions to our newcomers from Cape Verde, other days she is covering classrooms so that teachers can attend TEAM meetings, grade level meetings, etc. But every day, Carla is helping the school administrators and staff communicate with our non-English speaking parents. Carla is a highly respected member of the Raymond School and is an active participant in all family functions. Carla presently is a CCD teacher and is very active in the community. Carla seems to know each and every family in our school community!

Ongoing Board Members

*Ann Goldrick Dobrowski*

Ann Goldrick Dobrowski is a founding member of the Michele A. Logan Family Center. She is a retired teacher from the Taunton Public School System. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Anna Maria College and double Masters in Education from Lesley University. Ann taught at the Galligan and Hopewell Elementary Schools both first and second grades and tutored kindergarten through fourth grade. Ann is a former member and officer of both the Raymond and the North PACs. She has also served on the School Council of Raymond School and Hopewell School. Ann is married to former School Committee member from Ward 7, Ron Dobrowski. They are the proud parents of a Brockton High School graduate, Charles and his wife Kim (who is also a BHS graduate) who currently reside in Brockton. At this time Ann is a substitute teacher in the Plymouth Public Schools and supervises the Saturday Enrichment Program at Hopewell School in Taunton.

*Julie Crowley Kennard*

Julie Kennard is another founding member of the center and was a close friend and neighbor of Michele's. She is the mother of three sons. Always an active member of the schools communities, Julie was an officer for the Raymond and Brookfield School PACs and continued through the ranks to serve for the PAC at the North Junior High as well. In 1994, her efforts were recognized with the prestigious BPS Baroncelli Award.

A graduate of Bridgewater State University, Julie was employed as a technology education teacher with the Brockton Public Schools for many years at North and West Middle Schools, eventually becoming an Instructional Resource Specialist at the middle school level and also serving as an Associate Principal before her retirement in 2017.

*Donna Migdal*

Donna Migdal is one of the founding members of the Michele A. Logan Family Center. She became acquainted with the rest of the team WAY back in the 1980's when the first of her two sons became a student at the Raymond School. Being a stay-at-home mom and wishing to be connected to her boys' school experiences, she joined the Raymond PAC. Together, affectionately labeling themselves "The PAC Ladies", Donna, Michele, Julie, Linda, Ann and others organized activities at the Raymond such as Book Fairs, Balloon Day, Sundae Day and Teacher Appreciation Day. The PAC Ladies moved on, following their children across the street to North Middle School. At North, they added organizing and chaperoning school dances to their repertoire, but they never stopped being involved at the Raymond. Unfortunately, it was during this phase of the fun that Michele became ill. Her passing left a huge void, which they tried to fill by securing space at the Raymond, dedicating it to her and using it to serve the students and families of the Raymond. Every activity that the Family Center sponsors holds a spark of Michele at its core. Second only to her love of her family was Michele's determination to support the people in her community. After both Donna's children moved up to Brockton High School, she became an employee in the Brockton Public Schools. Her first post was in 1994 at North as a Parent Liaison, moving next to the newly opened Student Registration and Parent Information Center, and then to support staff in the Curriculum Department. After 21 years Donna ended her career in BPS, retiring from her final job as Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools.

*Linda Kenney Logan*

Linda Kenney Logan, another founding member, has been an active volunteer in the Brockton Public Schools since 1972. She is a committed community activist, leading the City to the semi-finals in the All-America City Competition, spearheading a committee to fund and construct a playground at the Raymond School, participated in the formulation of the state's Education Reform Legislation, and working with Our Positive Posse, a group for inner-city youths. She was the recipient of the Albert Baroncelli award from Brockton Public Schools and the Excellence in Volunteer Service award from Community Services of Greater Brockton. She is Clerk of the Family and Community Resources, Inc. (FCR) Board of Directors and a member of the Board of the Southeastern Massachusetts Affordable Housing Corp. Linda received a BSN from Northeastern University and a Master's in Administration Degree from Salem State University. She is the Special Assistant to the CEO and the Administrative Supervisor of the Supervised Visitation and IPAE Programs at FCR.

*Nancy Asmutis*

Nancy Asmutis is a born and raised Brocktonite! She and her husband have raised three children, all of whom attended the Raymond school, went on to Brockton High, and have since graduated from college. Nancy has been an activist for many years, and has volunteered with the Family Center, in both planning and implementing events before being elected to the Board. She has served on three city-wide parent groups, BPAC as President, The Community School Advisory Board, and the Superintendent's Advisory Board, as well as President and Vice President of the Raymond PTA. She was the first Parent Liaison to be hired in the City of Brockton and served for 9 years. She then worked as a Paraprofessional for Kindergarten, and is now a Paraprofessional for the City Resource Room Grade 1-2. She has recently enriched her life by being baptized at the First Baptist Church in Brockton, where she is a volunteer.

Losses for the Logan Family and Center

The year 2016 brought sad and unsettling changes to the Board and the Logan Family.

Charles R. Logan, who was the husband of Michele Sasso Logan, died on April 5, 2016, after a long battle with cancer. Charlie was an active partner in the creation of the Center. At the time of his death he was married to Board member Linda Kenney Logan, and the father of Jeffrey and Russell Logan.

Stephen G. Tucker, brother-in-law of Michele Sasso Logan, died unexpectedly on May 20, 2016. Steve was a generous donor to the Center with his wife, Jane Tucker, and leaves his children William, Nancy, and James, as well as his beloved granddaughters Sara, Maeve and Mari.

The Center lost it's most loyal and generous donor on October 3, 2016, when Marjorie "Girlie" Logan passed away at the age of 96. She was Michele Sasso Logan's mother-in-law. Girlie was a familiar figure to many Brockton students as she participated in school activities with her granddaughter, Board member Nancy Tucker. She knit mittens, taught crafts, and was a beloved part of the Center family, Girlie leaves her children Jane Tucker, James and William Logan and her extended family.

The stress of so many traumatic events slowed us down last year, but we are back on track and more enthusiastic than ever!



Charles R. Logan



Stephen G. Tucker



Marjorie "Girlie" Logan

SECOND ANNUAL HALLWAY A SPOOKTACULAR SUCCESS!

For the second year, the MALFC has provided the entire Raymond School Community with a Haunted Hallway event. Families were invited to come in costume to experience the hauntings, a spooky chef's laboratory, Halloween themed crafts, games and snacks. With the help of fabulous volunteers and local altruistic groups such as the Girl Scouts and Alpha Delta Kappa Mu Chapter, hundreds of Raymond community members were treated to that frightful Friday night. This event has quickly become extremely popular and anticipated and we are looking forward to a lot more Halloween happenings next year!



What Has the Michele A. Logan Family Center Done for The Raymond School Community?

The Center has been responsible for a wide variety of activities, either by providing funding or delivering the services. Our goal has always been to interact with other community agencies to provide for the Raymond School family. Groups with whom we have collaborated include the YMCA, Catholic Charities, Cape Verdean Association, Brockton City Council and Mayor's Office, Boy & Girl Scouts, Soccer League, Brockton Neighbors United, High School Key Club, Boys & Girls Club, Brockton Area Multiservice Center, NAACP, Brockton Rotary Club, Raymond School PTA, and volunteers from all parts of Brockton.

Performances

Khakatay West African Drummers
Cambodian Dancers
Irish Step Dancers
Story Tellers
Live History Presentations

Seminar "Parents are Powerful"
Fathers' Night with Catholic Charities
Safety Nights/Strange Danger
Olympic Night
Talent Show x2
Toddler program with BAMS
Summer Fun Expo

Events

Haunted Hallway
Double Dutch Night
Clifford & Arthur Night
Movie Pajama Parties
Bingo for Books
Science Nights
Sports-Reading Nights
Mathletics
Multicultural Nights

- USA
- Asia
- Black History
- Cape Verde
- Caribbean
- Europe
- India
- Ireland
- Peru

Pizza parties
Spaghetti suppers
Valentine's dance
Donuts for Dads AM Coffee
Muffins for Moms AM Coffee
Family holiday shopping night
Car Seat Safety Night
Family Game Nights
Computer class for parents
Parent Seminar—"Navigating the System"

Services We Have Funded

Web site
Parent pamphlets
Lending Library
Clothing Bank
Computer & Internet access for the Parents
Parenting tip newsletters
Funds for needy school families
Funds for victims of trauma
Funds for end of year celebrations
Thanksgiving Donations
Coat Drives
Funded Telephone for school anti-truancy program
Office Space for Parent Liaison
Graduation Certificates for 6th and 8th graders
Shirts for Track Team
Document display case outdoors

Collaborative Projects

Multicultural Cookbook
Successful 501c3 application
Market Day Frozen Food provider
Collaborated with Reading Excellence Grant
Secured \$70,000 in funding for construction of school playground



What Projects are Planned for the Future?

We are working closely with Principal Carol McGrath to develop programming that will enhance the educational experience at the Raymond School, promote cultural competency, and encourage parent/family involvement all while having fun along the way. Here is a sneak peak of what is on tap for this school year; watch for notices and details!

More live performances are one goal, since many of our students have never had the opportunity to see one. Music is particularly appealing for family events. Game nights, informational sessions for parents on a variety of timely topics, and public forums such as Resource Fairs are valuable activities, but they all take funds to carry out!

Khakatay!! A West African drumming ensemble from Bridgewater State University which is always a treat. Not only are the rhythms amazing, but the ensemble includes the audience and teaches them to drum as well. They have entertained us before to rave reviews and we are currently working on scheduling them to return!



MathsAmazing! Presents through theater the importance of Math and S.T.E.A.M. in the real world.



A critical need this year is an enhanced Emergency Fund to provide grants to school families in need. The Guidance Staff delivers financial assistance to meet the needs of selected families at holiday time, after house fires or other disasters, and to meet the need for warm clothing or school uniforms. There are as many reasons as there are students. At this time, the needs are greater than Center resources. Proceeds from our 20th Anniversary Gala will help us not only replenish the fund but expand it.

Did you know that you can donate to the Family Center just by shopping on Amazon.com?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Center every time you shop, at no cost to you. Go to smile.amazon.com. You use your existing account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same. On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select the Michele A. Logan Family Center to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

*Michele A. Logan Family
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FIND US ON THE WEB!
<http://www.loganfamilycenter.com>

PLEASE HELP US CELEBRATE OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

*MALFC 20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2018
THE PERFECT PLACE
2039 MAIN STREET
BROCKTON, MA
MUSIC STYLINGS OF DJ MARK SMITH*

*Your \$50.00 donation includes Dinner, Door Prizes,
Raffles, and Dancing!*

RSVP to logfamctr@comcast.net

Info/questions contact Linda @ 508-588-4909

Purchase tickets at www.loganfamilycenter.com

This is a function for adults to have a relaxing night out. The fun starts with a social hour from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner. A brief presentation of Center Highlights will provide a touch of nostalgia and document the value of the Center to the Raymond School. Dancing will break out after dinner with the music stylings of DJ Mark Smith.

The Center is a 501(c)3 Non-profit, funded solely by donations from loyal supporters. Please help us continue to provide programming, education, and financial support of families in need!

Please join the fun and help us to keep the Center moving forward!.