

2005 Educational Foundation Recognition Awards

Joel Delmonico



Joel Delmonico, Vice President and General Manager of Clear Channel Radio manages seven radio properties that reach across the Central New York Region. An active member of the Central New York community, Joel was born and raised in Syracuse, attended Le Moyne College and graduated from Syracuse University and raised his family here. He and his wife, Chris live in Skaneateles; he has four above average children. After graduation, from 1969 through 1976, he taught junior and senior high school kids reading, basic math and behavioral improvement at Madison School. He ran the program from 1974 – 1976, teaching part time at Syracuse University in their Urban Teacher program as well. After a five year stint as Managing Partner for a construction company that specialized in architectural restoration of historic buildings and architect designed custom homes, he began work as an account manager at WSYR in September of 1981. Under Joel's leadership, Clear Channel has become a major influence in the Central New York business community and the not for profit community as well. Clear Channel has taken a major role in many local charity efforts that support and advocate for children of all abilities and needs – the Blodgett Dream Center, the McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Site, University Hospitals CARE program, Ophelia's Place and the first Annual NY State Conference on Eating Disorders and last summer's Youth Employment Initiative. Clear Channel was a major partner in the Syracuse City School Districts highly successful Hip Hop Summit, contributing senior staff for fundraising, event hosting and production, as well as devoting considerable air time supporting the lessons of the event. Joel has been awarded the Salvation Army's Civic Spirit Award (1998), The National Broadcasters Service to America Award (2000), the 2001 SME Crystal Ball Award, the ARC Achievement Award (2003) and the Temple Adath Yeshurun Citizen of the Year Award for 2003.

Frank A. Clark



Frank A. Clark, a lawyer with an office in Syracuse, is a lifelong resident of Central New York. In 2002, he joined with Gary W. Pickard, Chairman of the Syracuse City School District Educational Foundation, and Marilyn Higgins, a Vice President at Niagara Mohawk, a National Grid Company, to raise funds to establish the Syracuse Middle School Choice program to combat the increased incidence of juvenile and gang-related violence in the City. The fundraising effort included a benefit concert by Ellis Marsalis

& Sons in February, 2003, and ongoing solicitation of support from Central New York businesses, professional firms, and other private institutions. Over the last three years, more than \$500,000 has been raised from these sources. This year, an additional \$300,000 in federal funding to support the program was secured through the assistance of Congressman James T. Walsh. Syracuse Middle School Choice is based on a model developed at The Shriver Center of the University of Maryland at Baltimore. It provides intensive mentoring and support services to students who, by virtue of lagging academic achievement and significant behavioral problems, are at risk of dropping out of school and joining street gangs. The program's mission is to provide these young people with the social and academic tools they need to succeed in school and empower them to make positive decisions for themselves regarding issues of health, personal safety, and academic achievement. Choice operates under the auspices of the Syracuse City School District Educational Foundation. It is directed by Wayne D. O'Connor, a former Assistant Superintendent of the City School District. It has produced dramatic improvement in behavior and academic performance among some of the most challenged students in the City's middle schools.

Paul Nojaim



Paul Nojaim was born and raised in Syracuse NY, and third generation to operate Nojaim Brothers Supermarkets; a family business founded in 1919 by his grandfather and operated with his brothers. Nojaim's Westside location is in one of the nation's poorest neighborhoods. The area is plagued with poverty, substandard housing, and violence, high rates of infant mortality, teenage mothers, lack of faith, and lack of work opportunities. Nojaim's provides first and foremost a clean, wholesome, and competitive supermarket for people to buy groceries. In addition, Nojaim's employs from the neighborhood it serves, providing jobs that include health insurance and 401 k opportunities. Paul has been active for years collaborating with government, employers, and service providers to improve area housing. He serves on the Board for Rebuild Syracuse which was started primarily as a housing initiative to build homes on the Westside. It built over 200 homes in the area. In conjunction with Onondaga County and St Joseph's Hospital, Nojaim's opened the Westside Health Clinic to improve services to an area that is underserved and to address the high rates of infant mortality. At the request of Mayor Driscoll, Paul serves on the Intervention Task Force, a group that identified causes and courses of action to reduce youth violence. He founded and operates an employment youth development program that primarily hires and trains students of Syracuse City Schools in Life Skills, Job Knowledge, Career Exploration, and Community Service. In addition to the twenty three youth that are employed at Nojaim's, this enables an additional twenty plus youth from inner city areas work and training opportunities. Paul has been awarded the Post Standard Achievement Award 04', the Human Rights Commission Award and has been recognized by Catholic Charities.