

Contact: James L. Richetelli, Jr.
Mayor, City of Milford
City Hall
110 River Street
Milford, CT 06460
Phone 203 783-3201
Fax 203 783-3329
E-mail Mayor@ci.milford.ct.us
Web site www.ci.milford.ct.us

City of Milford

PressRelease

Mayor Proclaims April 2010 as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month in City of Milford.

**Recognition and Fundraising Efforts Will Focus
Attention on Parkinson's. Disease Affects an
Estimated 1 Million People in the United States Each
Year. Education and Research Offer Hope for the
Future.**

Milford, CT, April 19, 2010: Mayor James L. Richetelli, Jr. has proclaimed April 2010 as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month, hoping to rally municipal and community resources in the fight against the second most common neurodegenerative disease.

"It is very important that we raise awareness and increase public education about Parkinson's disease," Mayor Richetelli noted, in presenting an official proclamation recently to Jody Culmone, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2004.

Parkinson's disease has reportedly been around since medieval times. Known unofficially as "shaking palsy" until the early 1800's, the disease was named after British scientist James Parkinson following his 1817 article, "An Essay on Shaking Palsy" formally recognized and documented the disease.

Although research suggests that Parkinson's disease is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and progression is still unknown. Symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person, but may include: Tremor; slowness; difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing and speaking; cognitive problems; dementia; mood disorders; and sleep problems. An estimated 1,000,000 people in the United States are affected each year.

Mrs. Culmone noted that there is no objective test for Parkinson's disease, and that the rate of misdiagnosis can be high. "There is no cure, therapy or drug to slow or halt the progression of Parkinson's," Mrs. Culmone said. "Mayor Richetelli is so correct to say that increased awareness, education and research are needed to find more effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure for Parkinson's disease."

Mrs. Culmone will host a community fundraiser on May 23, 2010 to raise money for The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, as Chairwoman of "Team Fox". The inaugural **Champagne Brunch and More – For a Parkinson's Cure** will be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Racebrook Country Club in Orange. It will feature musical entertainment, a silent auction and a display in memory of – and in support of – those touched by Parkinson's. Additional information about the event and the available levels of sponsorship are available by calling 203-387-4182.