

Letter to the Editor:

## WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES

Dear Editor:

It is said that we create our own surroundings and this is most likely true. But I don't think it is that way for children. Children are the true victims of society who have no power to make their own choices, like where to live or even play. This summer, however, life for some very fortunate children in Jersey City has become dance and music, acting and singing, arts and crafts, karate and swimming and field trips. All of which adds up to a great summer for them thanks to the kindness and generosity of the Ray of Hope Foundation. These wonderful people have established a scholarship program for inner city children to get what they deserve, happiness and a good life. Ray Skop, the President of this fine organization, heard that our dancing school has performing arts summer camp and without our solicitation he contacted us and offered us money to send some well deserving children to our day camp this summer.

I've known Ray for most of my life and the gift from God that was bestowed upon him and entrusted to him is truly miraculous. I believe he was chosen because of his own astonishment to the occurrences he has been experiencing. There is no one with greater ability to spread the word than him. I heard about the religious items in his possession that were stored away for many years in his garage and that he one day discovered that they were true gifts of the Holy Spirit. I heard that people were flocking to his home to see this amazing phenomenon. But I couldn't believe

my eyes when I saw it for myself. I was so proud of my dear friend because he wasn't boasting or bragging about this, moreover, he was humble and quiet about it which is uncharacteristic of the Ray that I always knew. I didn't know much about what he was doing until after he offered us the scholarships and I attended one of the monthly prayer meetings where people from many different places gather together in Christian worship and share with each other kindness and friendship. He showed me his devotion to helping others by spending countless hours traveling to speaking engagements, listening over and over to the accounts of other people's experiences, and never tiring of it.

My greatest love and appreciation to my dear friend Raymond Skop and the wonderful people of the Ray of Hope Foundation for their dedication and generosity shown to the children of Jersey City. We do create our surroundings and these children will remember this experience for the rest of their lives.

Diane Verlingo

Carole Hayes Performing Arts Summer Day Camp