

**MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
AND THE NEW YORK YANKEES CELEBRATE
DISABILITY AWARENESS NIGHT BY
HONORING DANCING DREAMS**

The Mayor's Office for People With Disabilities (MOPD) and the New York Yankees celebrated Disability Awareness Night as part of the MOPD's commemoration of the 23RD Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). Before the Yankees took on the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, MOPD Commissioner Victor Calise and MOPD Deputy Commissioner/General Counsel Jason Mischel presented a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg to Dancing Dreams.

Founded in 2002 by Joann Ferrara, a pediatric physical therapist, Dancing Dreams is a nonprofit organization that provides dance classes for children with disabilities. Currently, children of all ages come from all over the tri-state region to participate. There is a voluntary contribution for classes to help cover the cost of the program; however, there is no child ever turned away for an inability to pay. You can find out more information about Dancing Dreams at dancingdreams.org. Ms. Ferrara, along Glorianna Jackson and Rayhana Elharjari, two of Dancing Dreams' dancers, accepted the Certificate of Appreciation.

The New York Yankees are one of the most successful and popular sports franchises in the world. Each year, the Yankees host Disability Awareness Night at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, at which MOPD is invited to present awards to organizations and individuals who have made a difference in improving the lives of New Yorkers with disabilities. The Yankees and MOPD, along with other private and public organizations, worked together to ensure disability accessibility in the new Yankee Stadium.