



The Bloomingdale Family Program serves preschool children from low-income families in upper Manhattan. Our educational program fosters their growth in all areas of development — intellectual, physical, and emotional. We welcome children with special needs and provide the support services they need to become successful learners. Parents are our partners in the educational process. They gain experience as advocates for their children and encouragement to reach toward their own aspirations. The Bloomingdale Family Program is committed to maintaining its outreach as a model in early childhood and special education, and family development.

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At The White House

Bloomingdale founder and former Executive Director Susan Feingold meets with old and new friends.



When Bloomingdale founder and former Executive Director Susan Feingold was invited to a White House Reception in May honoring Jewish-American Heritage Month, she got an unexpected bonus: a private meeting with the President and Michelle Obama, and Vice President Joe Biden! The meeting was arranged by President Obama's Director of Political Affairs, Patrick Gaspard, who just happens to be a Bloomingdale alumnus.

Susan is still walking on air after her White House meeting. "It was especially heartening to know that support for Head Start is dear to the hearts of our nation's leaders," Susan said.

Patrick Gaspard, who appears in each of these photos with Susan, received the National Head Start Association's "The Dream Lives On Alumni Award" on September 22. Patrick and his brothers were all children in Bloomingdale's Head Start program and the family treasures its ties to Bloomingdale. They all came to honor Susan at her July 2008 retirement dinner, where Patrick as keynote speaker, paid tribute to what Bloomingdale—and Head Start—has meant to so many families like his own.



Photo credits: White House photos courtesy of the White House; Portrait of the González-Roman family: Laura Dwight.

Parent Orientation Marks Start of School Year

Teachers, administrators, and staff members welcomed more than 100 moms and dads of newly enrolled Bloomingdale students at this year's Parent Orientation in late September. "It's a great opportunity for us to get to know each other, and for our parents to get a sense of all the services and opportunities we offer their children and themselves," said Bloomingdale's Executive Director José Velilla. The annual Orientation is a lively and interactive event: parents take turns meeting in small groups with staff representing each program and service area, and with plenty of question and answer time in English and in Spanish.

"Preparing our children for success is Bloomingdale's mission," José said, "and the road to success begins with building a strong partnership between school and home. Our programs for parents focus on what's uppermost on parents' minds: the wellbeing of their families. We offer parenting workshops on children's learning, behavior, and health; and classes in English literacy. We encourage our parents to take advantage of opportunities for further education, and many return to us with credentials and degrees and become dedicated Bloomingdale staff members.

"Parents at Bloomingdale are also a rich resource to the program. Through their classroom participation and in special all-school events, they share their talents and their cultural heritages, and help create from our diversity a living, vibrant community. They participate in program governance, serving on committees that address life in the classroom, the center, and the agency. Each year, along with our graduating four-year-olds who are ready and eager to succeed in school, we graduate a group of empowered parents who are ready to assume leadership in their children's schools and their community."



November 15 Gala Honors Bloomingdale



Join us at *Celebration*, a gala evening of music, dancing, cocktails and great food at the Waldorf-Astoria. The November 15 event is being hosted by Youth, I.N.C., which selected Bloomingdale to be one of 14 outstanding youth-serving programs to benefit from the evening. We hope many of Bloomingdale's friends will come to celebrate and contribute to our progress. Get your tickets now!

For more information email celebration@youthinc-usa.org or call 212-520-8287.