The Nassau Region of Hadassah culminated its yearlong health initiative of A Ray of Hope, Understanding the Spectrum of Autoimmune Diseases, with the Black and White Luncheon held on April 15 at Cartun on the Park. The event honoree was Dr. Betty Diamond, head of the Center for Autoimmune and Musculoskeletal Diseases at the Feinstein Institute-NSLIJ. Celebrity guest Brian Stokes Mitchell entertained the attendees with a medley of songs. The room was a sea of black and white, from the decorations to the clothes worn by the Hadassah women. It was a very enjoyable and successful event.

The Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD) hosted its 23rd Annual Angel Ball, raising $275,000 to support substance abuse prevention and addiction services on Long Island.

This year’s Angel Ball was particularly special with Christopher Kennedy Lawford receiving LICADD’s 2010 Humanitarian Award. Kennedy spoke about growing up in one of America’s most famous families, detailed his own personal battles with addiction and touted the miracle of recovery. Scott Clark reprised his role as master of ceremonies. Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano offered opening remarks and Bill Baum, CEO of Essex Manufacturing, and vice chair of the LICADD board, received LICADD’s Founder’s Award.

Prior to the ball, a kickoff celebration was held in March at Kellenberg Memorial High School and was also a success, raising more than $148,000. The kickoff was hosted by Father Philip K. Bichner, S.M., with the assistance and hospitality of Kellenberg’s students.

Long Island business leaders attended the Children’s Medical Fund (CMF) of New York’s Corporate Alliance Breakfast on April 22 at Glen Oaks Club, Old Westbury. They greatly enjoyed listening to keynote speaker Donny Deutsch, chairman of Deutsch inc., speak about keys to success in our current difficult economy. CMF established the Corporate Alliance in August 2004. Since that time, the group has become part of Long Island’s business elite as CMF continues to cultivate its relationship with business leaders in the community. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Child Life Program at the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Children’s Medical Center of N.Y. (formerly Schneider Children’s Hospital).