



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S INN

Temporary Shelter & Substance Use Disorder Treatment Center

the INN sight

St. Christopher's Inn
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www.stchristophersinn.org

Spotlight on the SCI Board: **ELAINE TAYLOR**



Elaine Taylor is an extremely busy woman! She has a full time career as the Executive Director of the House Staff Office in the Montefiore Health System, and has been working for Montefiore for nearly 35 years. She also runs Montefiore's Staff and Alumni Association, is an active grandmother to three grandchildren, and has a passion for golf. Elaine has another passion as well, and that is to educate parents and children about the dangers of drug abuse. This is just one reason why she has been donating her time and energy to St. Christopher's Inn for the past 16 years.

Elaine's involvement with St. Christopher's dates back to 2001 through her work with grief counseling for parents who lost children to addiction. Tragically, Elaine lost her own son, John Michael, to drug addiction when he was only 28 years old. She says that grieving for a lost child never gets any better, only different, and developing coping strategies is crucial to healing.

Elaine is grateful for the opportunity to help other parents deal with their tragedies, as it also brings comfort to her as she continues to heal.

Originally from the Bedford Park section of the Bronx, Elaine spent her early life with her parents, four brothers and a sister in a four and a half room apartment on Decatur Avenue. Her Dad had eclectic interests and was a musician, a businessman, and a pilot. Her Mom was her idol and raised six children with all the love she had in her heart. Elaine still makes her home in the Riverdale section of the Bronx.

Her daughter, Jeannette, has been married for 11 years, has two children, and lives close by. Elaine's grandson John Austin, lives in Los Angeles with his mom, Allison, but has spent every summer in NY with Elaine since he was a small child. While losing her son has never gotten easier, having John Austin and watching him grow up has been one of Elaine's greatest blessings.

Again, Elaine believes that the best way to overcome the drug crisis in America is to educate children early and often about the extreme danger of drugs and the power of addiction. Additionally, Elaine believes that parents must observe their children's habits, pay attention to changes in their life style and friends, and **must not be ashamed to seek help**.

Elaine has been serving on the SCI Board of Directors, as well as the Board Development Committee, since 2011. In her other volunteer work, she is involved with Compassionate Friends, an organization for parents who have lost children. She says there are many difficult meetings of that group but the objective is to bring grief to the surface and aid the healing process. Barely five months after losing her own son, Elaine reached out to help so many grieving families who lost loved ones on 9/11 with no warning at all.

St. Christopher's Inn is pleased and honored to have Elaine Taylor as a member of the Board of Directors, and to feature her in this issue's "Spotlight on the Board" section.

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UPCOMING EVENT: BOARD OF DIRECTORS FUNDRAISING DINNER

The St. Christopher's Inn 13th Annual Board of Directors Fundraising Dinner will take place on Thursday, June 15, 2017 at the historic Gotham Hall in Manhattan.



We are so pleased to honor Elizabeth Vargas, co-anchor of ABC 20/20 and bestselling author of *Between Breaths: A Memoir of Panic and Addiction*. We will also recognize and honor Joseph D. Roberto, Chairman, President and CEO of PCSB Bank. Mr. Roberto is a influential and generous business leader who demonstrates a strong sense of community and service to the Hudson Valley area. The Board will also recognize NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, who has been serving the Friars and the clients of the Inn with great care for many years.

For more information on how you can support and attend the dinner, please visit the SCI website at www.stchristophersinn.org, and view upcoming events.