Ricevuto Appears In His 24th Macy's Parade

Jackson Heights resident Joe Ricevuto made his 24th appearance as a clown in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade November 25. This year, he was a member of the Holiday Clown unit. Other clowns were dog walkers (with invisible dogs on leashes) or made up a Funny Bone Medical Team, a Firefighter Brigade and a Clown Band, to name a few of the 24 separate clown units in the parade.

One of the first clowns to arrive for parade duty, Ricevuto has been an old-time cop, an ear of corn on the cob, a candle and a court jester during his clown career. "Believe it or not, every year gets more exciting," he said. "I couldn't sleep the night before [the parade]. I feel like a young kid waiting for Santa Claus."

Ricevuto and his wife, Teena, first took their son, Joseph, and daughter, Maryann, to the parade more than 35 years ago. Whatever the weather, the Ricevuto family was there to watch as the parade made its way down Central Park West to Broadway and down through Manhattan to the Macy's flagship store on West 34th Street. For all of those years, Ricevuto kept telling his family how much he would love to be a clown in the parade. Twenty-four years ago, his daughter called the store and wrote to the parade director with her father's request. Ricevuto was called in for an interview and in 1984 donned costume, wig and clown makeup for the first time. He hasn't missed a parade since. Teena Ricevuto died several years after her husband signed on as a volunteer clown, but his family faithfully keeps up the tradition of cheering for their clown father and grandfather from the sidelines at every parade.

Joe Ricevuto celebrated his 24th year as a clown in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade by sending holiday greetings to friends, neighbors and the *Gazette*.

QPTV Wins Alliance For Community Media Award

Queens Public Television Executive Director Daniel J. Leone announced that Queens Public Television received three awards from the Alliance for Community Media. Two First Place awards and one third place award were given to QPTV during the 11th annual Fall Video Festival of the Alliance for Community Media (ACM), Northeast Region on November 15 in Methuen, Massachusetts.

"Light the Night," an annual walk to raise awareness for leukemia, is sponsored by The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. This year's walk took place at Forest Park in Queens.

"Imaginations Can Come True" features professional adult actors and directors performing short plays written by middle school students from the I.S. 10, Horace Greeley School. This program was produced through QPTV's Grant aid program for the Astoria Performing Arts Center.

The program "Chubby Checker Live" received an award for third place. This program was taped in front of a live audience at The Queensborough College Performing Arts Center. This program, produced through QPTV's Grant Aid program, featured the "King of the Twist".

The Mission of the Alliance for Community media is to advance democratic ideals by ensuring that people have access to electronic media and by promoting effective communication through community media.

QPTV (Queens Public Communications Corporation) is a not-for profit private corporation serving the residents of Queens. QPTV manages four community television channels specifically for Queens, under the franchise agreement between the City of New York and the cable operators in the Borough of Queens. Visit www.QPTV.org.

Wishing You A
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