Mayor Flynn to receive ESA “Make a Difference Award”

By Paul Feeney, Publisher

Elizabeth Seton Academy will honor former Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn with the “Make a Difference” Award at its annual Spring Gala, April 24 at Granite Links Golf Club, Quincy.

The award “honors individuals who stand with us and sustain our mission and vision,” according to Gregory O’Neill, ESA Director of Advancement.

“We honor those who, through extraordinary measure, service and commitment, have contributed to the success of the school and the community to which we belong. Elizabeth Seton Academy is proud to recognize the Honorable Raymond Flynn in 2016 for his tireless and unwavering service to the city of Boston, the Catholic Church, and the young women of ESA.”

Flynn was the mayor of Boston from 1984-1993.

He gave up his mayor’s position when he was appointed by President Bill Clinton to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See at the Vatican and served there from 1993-1997.

For additional information about the gala, please call Mr. O’Neill at 617-296-1087 x32, or email him at genrel@ea.boston.org, or visit the website at http://www.setonacademy.org.

Elizabeth Seton Academy is located in Dorchester’s Lower Mills neighborhood, also known as Saint Gregory’s Parish.

While in high school at South Boston High School, Ray Flynn was a three-sport star. He is a graduate of Providence College in Rhode Island where he was a basketball star for the Providence Friars and was voted the MVP of the National Invitational Tournament held at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

He also played professional basketball briefly before returning to Boston where he was elected State Representative for South Boston and then elected to the Boston City Council before running for Mayor and winning against all odds over David Finnigan whose family was raised in St. Ann’s Parish not far from the classrooms of ESA. David Finnigan served on the Boston School Committee. Finnigan’s father and brother were also elected to the House of Representatives and to the State Senate.

Flynn and Finnigan, two excellent examples of the power, importance and influence of education.

In that hard fought preliminary municipal runoff election for Mayor, Finnigan came in third behind former State Rep. Mel King of Roxbury who Flynn would beat easily in the final to become Mayor of the great historical city of Boston which includes Dorchester of course, not just home to ESA but the place where the first Town Meeting in America was held in 1630 at the First Parish Church.

It was just announced recently that the Waterfront area of Boston will be named in honor of Raymond L. Flynn, a fitting tribute to a great South Bostonian and an outstanding student athlete while in high school.

Since returning from the Vatican Ray has been a newspaper columnist for the Boston Herald in particular but his articles have appeared in many of this country’s finest newspapers and magazines and he has been interviewed on major issues of the day by TV networks from around the world. In his early days as a candidate for public office, Ray believed that the Media was the message and was known to deliver press releases right to the newsrooms of daily and weekly newspapers. He knew all their deadlines. In addition, he was always available to the press for second opinions that journalists needed to lend credibility to their reports and as a result this enhanced his name recognition with the voters and helped him immeasurably to advance in politics.

Just two weeks ago, the former Mayor was in an automobile accident outside his home. He had just returned from a rigorous workout at a gym in South Boston. He was rushed to the hospital where a pacemaker was inserted. The next day he was out walking the streets of South Boston. I met him on L Street and he told me he had just walked from his home in City Point to the Broadway MBTA Red Line Station. Friends of mine have been telling me he is out and about the town just as he was before the automobile accident. His doctor said in a Boston Herald story that he was a “likely heart exception” for this heart related incident. Just goes to show the tremendous energy he has always exhibited in every type of life’s activities from athletics to politics and journalism. ESA is fortunate to have him as a friend.

ESA needs and appreciates the support of people like current Mayor Martin L. Walsh, last year’s honoree and former Mayor Ray Flynn. Please join them as they honor a great American.

Senior Citizens want to stay at home for as long as possible!

NOTRE DAME EDUCATION CENTER, TIMELESS TRANSITIONS TEAM-UP TO HELP SENIORS STAY AT HOME

SOUTH BOSTON, MASS. — A new South Boston business and a well-known adult education center are teaming up to serve local seniors.

Timeless Transitions, a provider of in-home care for senior citizens, has become the latest company to use the Notre Dame Education Center’s Workforce Readiness and Career Pathways Program to help meet its staffing needs.

Elizabeth Baldwin, NDEC Employment Specialist, says that Timeless Transitions visited the school in late January to learn more about the Education Center, its programs, and services in hopes that there would be some potential clients to serve as personal care assistants for the company’s elderly and homebound clients.

“We’ve devoted a lot of time to identifying community needs and industry needs,” Elizabeth explains. “In this case, the population of the neighborhood is getting older, and the health care industry is growing by leaps and bounds. Our Workforce Readiness Program has been addressing these needs through our Medical Terminology course and Career Pathways Program, so we were confident we could introduce the team at Timeless Transitions to qualified candidates.”

Says Jenna Elerick, Executive Director of Timeless Transitions, “Seniors want to stay in their own homes for as long as they can. One of the ways we do that is to provide them with a personal care assistant, who helps them to stay in their homes and customizes their care to their needs. The care can be as minimal as just doing housework and as comprehensive as getting them to and from appointments, cooking for them and getting dressed, for example. Someone with more needs might require a home health aide or a certified nursing assistant, both of whom can help with administering medications.”

The way Jenna found NDEC was nothing short of serendipitous. “I was walking down Old Colony Avenue when I saw the Center’s sign,” she recalls. “I knew the Notre Dame commitment to education, because everyone in my family had gone to the Sisters of Notre Dame for elementary school, so I felt like the right place to be.”

Jenna reached out to Leah Moschella, NDEC’s Workforce Readiness and Career Pathways Program Manager, and to Elizabeth Baldwin. They invited me to an on-the-spot interview session, and chose for me four people who they thought would be a good fit for us. The whole process saved me a lot of time.” Jenna eventually hired one of the four.

“This is all part of our cycle of helping people sink roots into the community,” says Leah. “We respected Jenna’s desire to be in South Boston and find the best local people possible. Plus we also recognized the importance of the career ladder for our students. In the health care field, you can work on the patient-care side, or you can work in the ‘office’ side, which is a lot of room for growth. Preserving seniors’ dignity is paramount,” Jenna says. “Because we provide services in the home, it’s very personal,” she says. “It’s almost like being a matchmaker. We need people who are both skilled and compassionate.”

An important part of the in-home caregiver’s job is to serve as “eyes and ears” for the client’s doctor and family. “Timeless Transitions uses a whole-patient approach to caring,” Jenna explains. “We keep careful track of our clients and if anything changes, we are able to make referrals so they get the care they need and deserve. It provides peace of mind for the client and family.”

“Timeless Transitions is the newest employer to use NDEC’s Workforce Readiness and Career Pathways Program. The Center has partnered with other local employers in the past, and our students have been very pleased with the experience. Workforce readiness is vital today,” says NDEC Executive Director and CEO Mary Rose Durante. “And it’s more than helping people write outstanding resumes and conducting mock interviews for a desired job. These are very important. Employers need people who are prepared to work who can get up to speed quickly, and we’re able to meet that need.”

For more information about NDEC’s Workforce Readiness and Career Pathways Program, contact Leah Moschella, lmotchella@ndedeboston.org.

NDEC will also host a Job Fair on April 8, contact Leah for more information.

For more information about Timeless Transitions, contact Jenna Elerick, jelerick@timelesstransition.co. The agency is located at 184 West 6th Street, South Boston, Mass. 02127.

The Notre Dame Education Center (NDEC) is a South Boston-based 501(c)(3) non-profit community-based organization devoted to adult education. Since 1992, NDEC has provided a diverse, caring community in which students are empowered to develop their full potential as scholars, workers, and citizens. The Center’s students are driven to accomplish their individual missions, and NDEC is committed to growing, adapting, and evolving to meet changing needs.

NDEC offers workforce programs: Workforce Readiness and Career Pathways, Adult Basic Education and HSIET Preparation; English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL); and Youth Services.