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Local Couple Hosts Holiday Gathering to Benefit Preschool Education for Families in Basking Ridge/Bernardsville Area.

MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY – December 27, 2023.

When Drs. Mital and David Cohen of Basking Ridge attended their community's Charter Day in May 2023, they expected to enjoy the street fair, take in a few performances and sample some delicious food. However, what made the day truly special was the inspiration they discovered to make a profound impact on young children in their community.

At the Preschool Advantage booth, the Cohens learned that many families in Basking Ridge and neighboring Bernardsville receive funding from this small nonprofit that enables their children to attend preschool. David Cohen, whose mother was a preschool teacher, has always felt drawn to education-related causes. Reflecting back on their own children's growth during their preschool years, he recalled, "Our daughters gained a sense of teamwork, sharing, and empathy through playing and interacting with preschool classmates. The opportunity to interact with a diverse group of peers broadened their understanding of others' perspectives."

Being physicians as well as parents, the Cohens are keenly aware of the importance of a high-quality preschool education when children are three- and four-years-old, an extremely productive period for learning within the developing brain.

Sparked with the desire to help others during this festive season, the couple hosted a holiday party fundraiser in their home in early December and invited Preschool Advantage Executive Director, Nancy Bangiola, to speak to their guests about the urgent need to improve access to high-quality preschool in our state.

“Preschool is not automatically available to all children in New Jersey today,” explained Bangiola. “Rather, it is limited to those with the financial means to afford the significant cost involved. Children who have the good fortune to attend a high-quality preschool enjoy a wide range of positive outcomes, including more years of education, better health, and higher economic productivity than those who do not have this crucial opportunity.”

Together, the Cohens and their guests raised \$14,000 to make the life-changing benefits of preschool available to more children in Basking Ridge and Bernardsville. The Cohens were thrilled with the result; “We are honored to contribute to children’s lives in this way, and we thank our friends for joining us in giving such an impactful gift while enjoying a fun evening out!”

In 2023, 106 local children received assistance from Preschool Advantage. The Organization has provided over 1,500 families with financial assistance for high-quality preschool education since 1995. For the 2024 application and the list of participating preschools, or to learn more about how to become involved, visit www.preschooladvantage.org, call (973) 532-2501, or stop by the office at 25 Lindsley Drive, Suite 307, Morristown.

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Pictured left to right: Dr. David Cohen, Nancy Bangiola, Dr. Mital Patel-Cohen



Friends of Mital and David Cohen celebrate together while supporting preschool education