

From: LS Posner <lsposner@optonline.net>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 9:23:14 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Please welcome Monte Nido in Scarsdale

Dear Mayor Mark,

At <http://scarsdale10583.com/real-estate-/5106-heathcote-residents-object-to-proposed-group-home-in-murray-hill> I was horrified to read the anonymous complaint: "At this moment, the calm and character of our neighborhood is in jeopardy." The message urged readers to write to you to prevent Monte Nido from spoiling the view from manicured Scarsdale lawns, from reducing property values of million dollar mansions, and from exposing "concerned citizens" to the squalor of mentally ill patients who must surely be a criminals who will endanger their very lives i.e., mar "the tranquil, residential oasis of our community."

The death of my 25 year old niece just after her 25th birthday less than a year ago – *that's* the kind of "disruption of calm" that should be truly alarming to "concerned citizens." Though not a Scarsdale High School alum, she resembled many of them. A Dobbs Ferry resident, Rachel graduated in the top 10% of her high school class, she was in the National Honor Society, she finished college magna cum laude, and throughout those years she was also treated for anorexia in NYU, Utah, Princeton NJ, and as a day patient at a Monte Nido facility in NYC. Did she and other beautiful young women like her not deserve the opportunity of local treatment at a facility like Monte Nido? Is a talented, intelligent young woman struggling with an eating disorder the undesirable and dangerous element from which America's most privileged "concerned citizens" should be shielded? An eyesore so terrible that life in their idyllic Scarsdale mansions would be ruined? Is the ridiculous assertion that property values might go down, and the tranquility of their oasis would be spoiled, somehow a greater danger to our society than denying potential life saving treatment to our local young people – the children of our neighbors? I've attached a photo of my niece at her Rutgers University Senior Art Thesis. This is what a Monte Nido patient looks like.

According to USA Today (<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/2015/05/23/247-wall-st-richest-towns-america/27791475/>), Scarsdale is the wealthiest city in America. The median home value is over \$1,000,000, and the median household income, \$233,311 is close to 4.5 times the national median income of \$53,046. Can't Scarsdale citizens *afford* to show charitable compassion to these young people fighting for their lives?

Anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any mental illness. While there is little argument that early intervention offers the best chance for recovery, insurance often works as a barrier to prompt, thorough treatment (<http://www.nationaleatingdisorders.org/insurance-resources>). Add to the exorbitant costs of treatment, the disruption in the parents' work, the added burden on the frail patient who is away from home, and the cost and inconvenience of travel, all for the chance to see their beloved children hopefully get well and live longer.

I urge you to welcome Monte Nido to Scarsdale. Do not give in to ignorant people opposed to a facility that will provide an immensely beneficial service to area children, including some whom may very likely reside in Scarsdale.

Thank you,
Lillian S. Posner
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