

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL TEAMS UP WITH BEAR GIVERS THANKS TO  
MARTINO AUTO CONCEPTS**

Glen Cove, NY May 10, 2010 – Martino Auto Concepts, located in Glen Cove, NY recently became the first sponsor of a unique initiative with the School for Language and Communication Development (SLCD) and the non-profit organization, Bear Givers. The empowerment program will teach SLCD students the meaning of giving back while participating in the Bear Givers program that honors military veterans and current servicemen and women for their service, and presents them with handwritten letters and teddy bears.

“We thank Martino Auto Concepts from the bottom of our hearts for providing us with this opportunity to show our gratitude for veterans and teach our students to honor and recognize the people that protect our freedoms,” said Dr. Ellenmorris Tiegerman, Founder and Executive Director of SLCD. “Bear Givers is an amazing non-profit organization that makes putting smiles on people’s faces their mission. We could not be happier to participate in this initiative with them.”

Bear Givers’ primary focus is teaching children “acts of goodness.” Each SLCD student involved in the program gives away a teddy bear. Students write handwritten thank you notes that will accompany each teddy bear given to a military veteran or soldier. **The first drop off took place on April 22nd to the veterans living at The Regency located in Glen Cove.**

Joe LaPadula, owner of Martino Auto Concepts adds, “We are happy and proud to sponsor this program with SLCD and Bear Givers. It’s an important part of our business to give back to the community in which we live and work and honoring military veterans for their past service is something we truly believe in.”

Joseph Sprung, Founder of Bear Givers comments, “It is an honor and a privilege for us to partner with SLCD to provide a heartfelt thank you to many of our past military servicemen and woman. SLCD is a worthy organization that we admire and we thank Martino Auto Concepts for taking the lead and launching this program.”

For more information on the SLCD’s participation in the Bear Givers Program, contact the School for Language and Communication Development at 516-609-2000 ext. 123.

Founded in 2002 by Joseph B. Sprung, Bear Givers is a non-profit organization committed to bringing joy to the lives of children and adults alike with the ageless gift of a lovable teddy bear. At Bear Givers, the organization believes that the altruism of some can affect the lives of many, and that the support of a furry friend can make life more BEARable for all.

The School for Language and Communication Development provides special education services to children with language disorders including those along the autism spectrum continuum. SLCD’s program has grown from 36 preschoolers to more than 400 children ages 18 months to 21 years in elementary, middle and high school programs. As SLCD celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year, its mission to meet the special needs of children unable to speak or communicate still remains constant and the School’s motto “Language Learning for Lifelong Success” is continuously upheld. For information on the School for Language and Communication Development visit [www.SLCD.org](http://www.SLCD.org).