

# Person of the Year 2016: Greg Ingino

December 29, 2016 - FREEPORT LEADER

Continued from front page  
 mas. They also can receive vocational training. Most importantly, they learn the social and emotional skills necessary to face life's challenges.

"It's called PBIS — Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports," Ingino said. "We teach appropriate behavior and praise with positive rewards."

"When I was a kid and naughty, he always wanted to talk it out," Melissa D'Acunti, Ingino's daughter, said. "He didn't punish me. He was very level headed, wise and logical. He's this calming presence."

Ingino's calm presence works with the children he encounters at Woodward each day as well. "We had a boy come through our doors that had been through five different programs. He had drug and gang problems," Ingino explained. "But we worked with him. He went to Nassau [Community College], then to Hofstra [University], received a B.S. in engineering and became involved in the [Reserve Officers' Training Corps]. We met his needs and helped him turn himself around."

"Greg is a real advocate for kids," Danielle Colucci, the Woodward Center principal, said. "Students return all the time to say hello. He has touched so many lives."

Colucci recalled how Ingino helped one student who had no appropriate clothes for a job interview. "He took him shopping for



Laura Schofer/Herald

**GREG INGINO** with volunteers who helped paint a fence at the Woodward Center this summer.

clothes," Colucci said. "He just always seems to know what everyone needs."

"I can't speak highly enough of his dedication to the Woodward School and its mission," Ivan Sayles, a Woodward board member, said. "No one cares more deeply for those kids than Greg." Ivan became involved in the school after he

took a tour with Ingino and was "so moved by everything done there."

Sayles, a local restaurateur, offered to teach cooking classes. "And then he reeled me in," Sayles said. "He is an inspiration, and I found my involvement there to be addicting. He knows how to be a leader."

"He knows how to connect with people," George Singfield, the board chairman emeritus, said. "He is a team player, not a person who is interested in self-promotion. I think the best word for Greg is mensch — a real genuine human being. I've known him for 20 years, and it has been a pleasure."

## DŌ GAKUIN SHOTOKAN KARATE-DO

at Congregation B'nai Israel  
 91 North Bayview Avenue  
 Freeport NY 11520  
 (entrance in rear under awning)  
 Phone: 516-SHOTOKAN  
 (516-746-8652)  
 Email: do-gakuin@hotmail.com



2017 resolve to improve health, fitness, stamina, coordination, balance, confidence while learning a traditional martial art!



Gift Certificates Available

Founded 1986

~ A traditional Karate dojo with a small, club-like atmosphere ~

No Contracts! No Registration Fees!  
 Children ages 10 and up - Teens - Women - Men

Check our Website: [www.do-gakuin.blogspot.com](http://www.do-gakuin.blogspot.com)  
 And on Facebook: @KarateFreeportNY



Happy New Year!

Classes: Mon: 6:30-7:45pm & 7:45-9:00pm, Wed: 6:30-7:45pm & 7:45-9:00pm, Sun: 10:30-11:45 & 11:45-1:00pm