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## Ramapo College's Disney Club Spreads a Little 'Magic' for a Cause

MAHWAH, N.J. -- The Disney Club, a student-run organization at Ramapo College, recently held a fundraiser event to benefit YCS (Youth Consultation Service) Fort Lee Education Center, a private, non-profit school that provides educational services, therapeutic interventions and career/transition experiences for adolescents with behavioral disorders.

The event, dubbed "Pizza Planet," had a Toy Story theme that transformed a student lounge into an arcade with carnival games to win small prizes, video game tournaments, cotton candy and popcorn. Students who attended the event made donations for the cause.

"We hold fundraisers for charities because we recognize it's really important to give back," said Disney Club President Jenny Hubert '18. "We want to spread the 'Disney magic' to people less fortunate, especially with local organizations like YCS because they are our neighbors who need our help first."

The club members first learned of YCS at a meeting earlier this spring, said Eddie Seavers, Associate Director of Student Involvement at Ramapo who serves as staff advisor for the Disney Club. "When YCS came to talk to the Club Presidents, the Disney Club was immediately interested. Planning for the event itself was already underway and adding this philanthropic element was of great interest to the students."

Disney Club also was a co-sponsor for the "Be Our Guest Ball" which was selected as one of two Social Program of the Year awardees. In addition, the Disney Club was selected as one of two "Club of the Year" winners.

"The Disney Club has a lot of fun, but the 'magic' they bring to campus isn't only in the form of fun and games," said Seavers. "They partnered with other clubs and offices to raise funds during three different events this year. Their 'Coloring for a Cause' event at Late Night has become an annual favorite."

Joan Hickey, a longtime volunteer at YCS, said the moneys raised would help fund a graduation event for the 28 high school graduates at the Fort Lee location. The money raised will go toward caps and gowns, yearbooks and a party.

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top in the Best Regional Public Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes viewed as a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,000 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers eight graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.