

## Board spotlight on...Cheryl A. Marraffino



Cheryl Marraffino has been drawn to building and construction for as long as she can remember. “There is something so thrilling about building,” she said, her eyes wide with excitement. “To help create something new, something that may be around 100 years from now is a wonderful motivation.”

Born and raised in the Bronx, New York, Cheryl attended St. Barnabas High School and later worked her way through Dominican College. She worked in the energy field, focusing on business development related to the construction of co-generational facilities, until joining Skanska USA Building, Inc. six years ago as the Director of Business Development. Skanska is one of the world’s leading construction management firms. Cheryl is responsible for identifying and securing new projects for the company, in a variety of market sectors, including life sciences, healthcare, education, commercial/corporate office, government and hospitality.

Cheryl first learned of CPNJ when she saw a report on Fox-5 News in May 2006 about problems with a construction project at the agency’s Horizon School. The general contractor responsible for building an aquatic therapy pool for the more than 80 students with multiple disabilities accepted payment for the work and then failed to pay his subcontractors and walked off the job. The school was left with a hole filled with muddy rain water. Cheryl was on the phone immediately and within days Skanska agreed to take the project on pro bono. Skanska and their subcontractors donated more than \$300,000 in material and labor to complete the project and the pool opened in November 2007.

“In the course of the project, I just fell in love with the kids of Horizon School and with everything the agency represents,” said Cheryl. A few months after the project was completed, Cheryl agreed to join the agency’s Board of Trustees. She now serves on the Development and Real Estate Committees and has become a regular at Horizon School’s Wheelin’-n’-Walkin’ Challenge. “Cheryl is a true woman of action,” said Jeanne Terrence, CPNJ’s Interim Executive Director. “When she sees an opportunity to improve something, be it a pool or a program, she is compelled to make it happen. She is a builder in more ways than one and we’re so happy to have her here at CPNJ.”