West Brighton resident hailed for work on behalf of children

By Maura Grunlund

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WHITE: Hailed by city as a tireless advocate for youngsters

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — West Brighton resident Marion White, a dauntless advocate for children, has been honored by the city.

The founder and executive director of the Child Abuse Prevention Program received the Children’s Services Commissioner’s Child Advocacy Award on April 21 in at the city Administration for Children’s Services headquarters in Manhattan.

The non-profit CAPP, which she established in 1986 at 5 Hanover Square in Lower Manhattan, educates thousands of elementary school children about physical and sexual abuse through child-safety workshops.

Its new awareness and fundraising, “It’s Their Right PSA Campaign,” has begun airing public service spots featuring Food Network star Sandra Lee, actress Margaret Colin of “Gossip Girl”
and actor Steve Schirripa.

A donation of $20 teaches one child to recognize, resist and report physical and sexual abuse.

The workshops feature prevention specialists performing skits using life-size puppets. In the last year alone, CAPP has presented 22 workshops in 13 schools for 2,196 students on Staten Island.

The Children’s Clothes Closet Project provides clothing, toiletries, toys and books to fill overnight bags for children who are being removed from their homes to safer situations because of abuse and neglect. CAPP has a clothes closet at the Safe Horizons Staten Island Child Advocacy Center.

Major Staten Island CAPP financial supporters include the Richmond County Savings Foundation, City Councilman James Oddo (R-Mid-Island/Brooklyn) and District Attorney Daniel Donovan. CAPP also receives money from Staten Island schools through the Penny Harvest program.

The Web sites are Itstheiright.org and Childabusepreventionprogram.org.

Also honored were: Marjorie Marciano, deputy director of the City Department of Transportation Safety Education Division; Sgt. Stephen Giuntini of the NYPD Child Abuse Squad; Rachel Lloyd, executive director of Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS), and The Chinese American Planning Council (CPS).