



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE FILE PHOTO

Elissa Montanti, named grand marshal of the Island's Columbus Day Parade, is pictured with Ali Ameer from Iraq. Her efforts helped bring the child to the U.S.

BP announces grand marshal of borough's Columbus parade

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The "Saint of Staten Island" will be the grand marshal of the 15th Annual Columbus Day Parade, Borough President James Molinaro announced yesterday.

Elissa Montanti of Arrochar, who was given the nickname by People Magazine for her work with the Global Medical Relief Fund, will lead the march on Sunday. The parade steps off from New Dorp High School at 1 p.m. and goes up New Dorp Lane before dispersing at the South Railroad Avenue overpass.

Before the parade begins, Molinaro will present Ms. Montanti with a certificate and the grand marshal sash during a ceremony commemorating Italian Heritage Month in the New Dorp High School lobby at 11 a.m.

"Elissa Montanti is representative of the wonderful, concerned, committed individuals who make Staten Island such a great place to live," Molinaro said.

Through her nonprofit agency, the Global Medical Relief Fund, Ms. Montanti helps young victims of war

and natural disasters from all over the world. Since 1996, she has arranged for 50 children to receive medical care and prosthetics that they otherwise would not have been able to get.

The agency is headquartered on the grounds of the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin at Mount Loretto, where children brought to America for treatment stay with their caregivers. Ms. Montanti, a native Islander, works with the Shriners Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, and Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan, to provide surgery, prosthetics and rehabilitation for children suffering from debilitating injuries.

Parade-goers can look forward to a vibrant celebration of Italian culture, complete with music, dancing and Molinaro's own parade float, which will be a replica of one of the three ships that Christopher Columbus sailed. Students from PS 29, Castleton Corners, will join him on the float as they portray Columbus, Queen Isabella and deckhands.

Proclamation



Whereas: Richmond County is home to the largest number of Italian-Americans in the United States, so it is no wonder that Staten Islanders take great pride in our wonderful ethnic heritage and the vast contributions of the Italian people to our Borough and our Nation; and

Whereas: Each October, Staten Island celebrates Italian Heritage Month in conjunction with the Columbus Day Parade, and this year the Borough President has named Elissa Montanti, founder of the Global Medical Relief Fund, as the 2005 Italian Heritage Month honoree and Grand Marshal of the 15th Annual Columbus Day Parade; and

Whereas: Called "The Saint of Staten Island" by "People" magazine, Elissa Montanti helps young victims of war and natural disaster from all over the world through her non-profit agency, and since 1996, she has arranged for 50 children to receive the medical care they otherwise would have gone without; and

Whereas: On October 2nd, Elissa Montanti will lead Staten Islanders of all backgrounds in a celebration of Italian-American culture in the parade along New Dorp Lane with hundreds of marchers, colorful floats, bands, and dancers,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES P. MOLINARO
*President of the Borough of Staten Island, by virtue of the
power and authority vested in me by the laws of the City and
State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 2, 2005 as*

ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH HONOREE ELISSA MONTANTI DAY

in the Borough of Staten Island.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
hand and affixed the seal of the Borough of Staten Island
this Second day of October in the year of Our Lord,
Two Thousand and Five.*



James P. Molinaro

