



(L-R) Raymond, Adja and Denise Douglas, Direct Service Professional enjoy a moment of bonding before heading off to the dance floor for a spirited round of line dancing.

## BLACK TIE AFFAIR EVENT

“Brightens the Spirits of WellLife Network Participants”

“I look forward all year to this event. We work so hard to make it happen. Thank you everyone and all of the nice people who help us.”

*Allison T.*

*Astoria Day Habilitation Participant*

As fall approaches, excitement abounds at WellLife Network’s Astoria Day Habilitation Program.

September is the time of year that heralds *The Black Tie Affair* – a luncheon that honors the accomplishments of the individuals and staff who make a difference.

### A Unique Event

“What makes this event unique,” explained Denise Douglas, Direct Service Professional, “is that the program participants raise the money to fund the event.” Participants and their families join together to support this event through classroom bake sales, healthy snack sales and donations from parents. Socialization, cooking and computational skills are reinforced all year thanks to this luncheon. “Good will and respect for all people and their accomplishments fuel the hearts of all in attendance,” said Lynda Ikuoyemwen-Ehiorobo, Program Coordinator, Astoria Day Habilitation. This is evident as some 110 individuals with developmental and other disabilities gathered at Terrace on the Park, late in September for a luncheon of celebration and joy.

### Values of Caring and Concern

“We are grateful for the scope and depth of professionalism and dedication that staff provides to our participants. Their values of caring and concern have a profound impact on all whom we serve and help to improve our participants’ quality of life and outcomes,” said Durpatee Roopnarine, Director, Developmental Disabilities Services, WellLife Network.



Allison proudly shows off the Black Tie Affair Event cake with Tameika Ingram, which symbolizes the year long effort.

The luncheon was celebrated with dancing, a healthy array of food and entertainment by participants. “This is one time of the year that we can show who we are through dance and music,” said Allison, a participant at Astoria Day Hab, “. . . and feel like one family.”

“Allison’s enthusiasm captures the spirit of this yearly event,” remarked Rob Lydon, Director, Developmental Disability Services. The event ended with the group singing “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” and slicing a delicious sheet cake inscribed with the name “Black Tie Affair Event”.