

## THE PROFESSIONAL CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT



### Special Honoree John DeMichaelis

John DeMichaelis was born in Medford, Massachusetts, the son of Giovanni and Martha DeMichaelis. In 1938, his father founded the State Garden Celery Co., a small celery processing facility located on Commercial Street in Boston. As an 8 year old boy, John would take time after school to help his father, two brothers, and sister run the family business.

Immediately after graduating from Medford High School in 1951, John became a major contributor to State Garden, helping his dad and his sister Anne. He worked very early and long hours and the company grew and relocated to Chelsea in 1968. Over time, John's three sons John, Mark, and Kevin would come on board to help their father with the business he had worked so hard to build. The rapid growth of the company lead to an expanding product line that now features spinach and organic salads. State Garden now distributes to supermarkets throughout the northeast, mid Atlantic, and southeast regions of the country.

Realizing his good fortune, John decided it was time to develop a concept in which the business could give back to the community. He approached his sons for input on what could be done and in February 2006 the Olivia's Organics Charitable Foundation was born. The foundation's mission is to take a portion of the total sales from Olivia's Organics salads and donate them to charities that support children. To date the Olivia's Organics Foundation has given to 30 children's charities, with the most recent being the Professional Center for Child Development. The mission statement took on more meaning because two of John's grandchildren, Kevin and Ryan, have undergone speech therapy at the center. Ryan is currently involved in the Center's Two by Two program.

John still remains a strong presence at the company he built over many years, active in the day to day operations. John resides in Reading with his wife Marion. He enjoys spending his free time with his family in New Hampshire and Florida and loves being with his eight grandchildren.