

\$500 Doll For Hospitalized Children Donated by Columbia Society

By Michael Drezin

A doll costing \$500, with organs that can be seen when its "stomach" and "head" are unzipped, was do-

nated to a local hospital by the Columbia Society, a social and charitable organization of Bronx courthouse employees. The doll is used to ex-

plain medical procedures to the seriously ill children facing them.

The Columbia Society also donated four TV's having either built in VCR's or DVD players, and a Playstation II, to the Children's Hospital at the Montefiore Medical Center, 3415 Bainbridge Avenue in the Bronx.

"The kids loved it," said Court Officer, Albert Collela, President of the Columbia Society which made the donations. "These kids are in special units," he explained, "and do not otherwise have access to the (donated) equipment." Funds for the \$1400 donation were raised in a Society sponsored raffle, he said.

"We don't want to ask," said Collela, but the five children he saw recently, some inpatient, some not, appeared seriously ill. He said one was undergoing chemotherapy, one walked with a tank, another rode a wheelchair with a tank attached. He assumed the tanks held oxygen or medicine. But the atmosphere, Collela said, was "friendly... it was a nice place."

The donation was presented by Collela, and Columbia Society members Josephine M. Bastone, an attorney, Lucia A. Chiamonte, Surrogates Court Management Analyst, Gerald V. Esposito, Bronx Supreme Court, Civil Division, Administrative Judge, and Michael L. Prisco, Chief Clerk of the Bronx Surrogates Court.



Jusitce Gerald v. Esposito, (center) Administrative Judge of the Supreme Court Bronx County, Michael Prisco, Chief Clerk of the Bronx County Surrogates Court (right/background) Columbia Society President, Court Officer, Albert Collela.