

HARRIS PROJECT AT PACE



From left, at the banner: MaryJane Shimsky, Alan Marquesano, Pace University Director of Government and Community Relations Bill Colona, Michael Orth, Stephanie Marquesano, Jensyn Marquesano and Tom Abinanti.

The harris project is named for **Harris Marquesano**, a 19-year-old from Ardsley who died of an accidental drug overdose in 2013. Harris had what is termed "co-occurring disorders" – one or more mental health disorders coupled with substance misuse or addiction. The harris project, designed to call attention to the need for early intervention, was founded by Harris' mother, **Stephanie Marquesano**. Recently, more than 350 project supporters staged the first Co-Occurring Disorder Aware-

ness Walk in the U. S. at Pace University's stadium in Pleasantville.

Among those participating were **Michael Orth**, the commissioner of Westchester County's Department of Community Mental Health, County Legislator **MaryJane Shimsky**, state Assemblyman **Tom Abinanti**, members of Pace men's and women's sports teams, as well as more than 80 student-athletes from Mercy College and volunteers from Valhalla High School.

Entertainment was provided by **Zeke Thomas**, a sexual assault and substance abuse survivor and the son of NBA Hall of Fame player **Isiah Thomas**.

The event was organized by Stephanie Marquesano, Pace University Director of Government and Community Relations **Bill Colona** and Pace Student Athlete Advisory Committee members **Amanda Dickerson** and **Victoria Kealy**.