

EASTCHESTER

N E I G H B O R S

NOVEMBER 2025



MAKING A GO OF IT IN EASTCHESTER

Photography by Jen Parente Photography

POWERED BY
BVM
BEST VERSION MEDIA

Making a Go of It in Eastchester

Meeting Life's Challenges

By Matt Kachur

Photography by Jen Parente Photography

Life can sometimes deal a hard blow. Such was the case when Paul and Rochelle Asaro welcomed Paul Jr. into the world. Giving up was obviously not an option.

Paul the younger was born in Danbury, CT. Shortly after birth, he was transported to Yale New Haven Hospital due to a blockage in his stomach, which led to a case of sepsis and eventually brain damage.

While Paul's brain damage has been a fact of his life ever since, his family was determined to face the issue with energy and frankness, and, as Paul grew up, he became an active participant in the meeting of his own challenges.

First came schooling. The Asaros moved to Eastchester soon after Paul was born and he was registered in the Eastchester School District. It was determined that Paul's educational needs would be best met by Southern Westchester BOCES. Paul attended special education programs through BOCES at Quaker Ridge Elementary School, Rye Neck Middle School and High School, and continued his education at the BOCES Valhalla campus. "I loved that all the school bus drivers knew me and liked me," he says.

As is the case with many young people with special needs, Paul was actively involved in extracurricular activities. Paul was involved with the Eastchester Youth Soccer Association from 1985 to 1991 and actually ran track for Eastchester High School. "I did the 1,600 meter in 5.42 minutes, the 3,200 meter in 12.42 minutes, and once I did the 2000-meters steeplechase," he proudly recalls.

Paul also became involved with the Special Olympics, and when we say "involved" we mean it. "When I was 16 years old," Paul says, "I started doing Special Olympics and was involved with bowling, volleyball, swimming, track and field, basketball, and cycling. In June 2003, I participated in the cycling event at the Special Olympics World Games held in Dublin, Ireland. I also attended the World Games Torch Run in Abu Dhabi in March 2019." Not surprisingly, Paul has also been a Special Olympics coach and serves on the Board of Directors for New York State Special Olympics.

Today, Paul is 47. He lives in Eastchester with his wife, Melissa, 45, who he married in 2012. Melissa is a Pelham native. Paul and Melissa were in school together from first grade through high school. "When I was invited to her thirtieth birthday party, I asked her out on a date and we went out on Valentine's Day,

2010," Paul recounts. The rest, as they say, is romantic history. The couple live in Leewood Circle in the heart of town.



Paul currently works in the mailroom for Ellington Management Group LLC in Old Greenwich, CT, having been with the firm since 2006. Prior to Ellington, Paul held various jobs at Pitney Bowes, UPS, and Lake Isle in Eastchester. Melissa works at Marshall's in Hartsdale, since 2022. She has held various retail positions during her career, including at Christmas Tree Shoppes, Toys R Us, and CVS.

On weekends Paul is an adult altar server at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scarsdale and also serves on the IHM Parish Council. He is also an active volunteer for the Eastchester Volunteer Fire Department and a member of the Knights of Columbus.



In addition to his parents, Paul and Rochelle, Paul has two sisters: Lauren and Emily. Family is key to Paul's life story. "My family was supportive of me," he tells us. "We did everything together. They celebrated my accomplishments as well as my sisters' accomplishments. I wouldn't be who I am without all of them." Paul is godfather to two children, a niece and a nephew. "My mom was a 'stay-at-home mom' and was always there for us," he says. "My father was in finance. My parents prepared us to be independent adults and that included making sure I could drive and make my own decisions."

"We are very proud of Paul's accomplishments," his mother, Rochelle, tells us, although she admits to feelings of pain when Paul is frustrated by the things he cannot do. "Paul does the most with what he has," she continues. "He is very dependable, never misses a day of work, is always early for work, is loved and respected by many friends. In a nutshell, he is a good human being and that makes him special."

As for his father, Paul Sr. says he told Paul he could do anything he wanted to do. "I didn't want his handicap to hold him back," Paul Sr. told us. "I pushed him to try everything. This enabled Paul to achieve all that he has with the challenges life has given him. I'm proud of all his accomplishments and proud to call him my son."

People with disabilities or special needs often don't get a chance to speak for themselves. Accordingly, we decided to ask Paul what he would like to share about the challenges he has faced and how he has met them.

"I feel sometimes like I fall in the cracks," Paul says. "I'm intelligent enough to do many things but I am also intelligent enough to know about what I could have accomplished if I didn't have brain damage or if I was born today and with the advances of medicine if the brain damage could have been avoided. My speech is affected by the damage and so a person can detect right away that I am special needs."

"My mom tells me that I am a very social person and that I have many friends," Paul continues. "I found this out when I was hospitalized earlier this year and so many people reached out to me from the church. When I have been down because I couldn't attend college like my sisters, my parents told me that many people are successful who don't attend college and that you make your own happiness by counting your blessings. I am married, I own my own place, I have a good job, I enjoy all my volunteer work, and I am a wealthy man by the number of friends I have."

A wealthy man, indeed. And Eastchester is a wealthier place for being home to Paul and his family.