

## Touch Trust in the Big Apple!



Charlotte Aubrey, Dr David O'Hara (Vice President of the Westchester Institute of Human Development) , Debbie Court, Dilys Price

Between 20<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February this year, a team from Touch Trust visited New York State in the USA showcasing the work of the charity.

At the invitation of Dr David O'Hara, Vice President of the Westchester Institute of Human Development, Dilys Price, Debbie Court and Charlotte Aubrey spent five days attending lectures on autism, meeting staff at the Institute and taking workshops and Touch Trust sessions at Ferncliff Manor Special School in Yonkers, New York.

Dr O'Hara was so impressed with the Touch Trust programme, he had no hesitation in including them in a funding application on behalf of Ferncliff School to develop the school as a centre for Autism with their staff being trained by Touch Trust.

All being well, the Touch Trust team will return to Ferncliff School later in the year to conduct a two week introductory training course for the staff and carers with a member of their staff visiting Cardiff to continue training. Eventually we hope that the school will become a corporate member of Touch Trust and that the Westchester Institute will link with the Wales Millennium Centre.

While they were there, Dilys, Debbie and Charlotte also visited the New York Institute for Special Education in the Bronx to see their programme for pre-school children with learning difficulties and attended a cocktail party in Manhattan hosted by the Welsh Assembly as part of Wales Week.