



# Connections

The in-house newsletter of Community Living, Inc.

Late Fall 2012

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When I came to CLI 25 years ago, the holidays were fast approaching. Little had been done to celebrate in the past and if we were going to build a foundation of one big family, that had to change. That year we started the Snowflake Campaign to bring in donations to purchase holiday gifts for all of our 48 residents. That first year we were overwhelmed with the response from the Frederick Community as we continue to be today. In 1987 every resident got hats, gloves and coats, plus one "fun" item. Houses were decorated with donated trimmings and we celebrated with a turkey dinner at Bushwaller's on Christmas day. Since then we have continued to grow and the Frederick Community has grown along with us.

Snowflake is our major fundraiser for the whole year for our 115 participants. It is the conduit from which we can provide our people with their hopes and dreams. Some are as simple as food for their dog or a trip to Disneyworld. Let me tell you of two of those requests.

Pauline had lived on her own for years. We moved her into a home with two others after she had been taken advantage of where she was living in a senior high rise. The three lived there for a number of years with little to no supports. Now Pauline is 87, in poor health, her true joy is her dog, but she must move to a nursing home. The state will not pay for her to live in one of our 24/7 homes. On top of that she will be in a room by herself as she tests positive for MRSA. Where is she today? Living in one of our homes, unfunded, but our generous Snowflake donations helps her to keep her beloved Toby with her. She comes to our seniors program every day with a smile on her face and tells us all about the antics of Toby

E. had always wanted to go to Disneyworld. Her roommate already had the experience and now she went around wearing her Disney shirts and pointing to the characters, saying my turn. She had most of the money saved, but needed that extra amount. Snowflake provided those funds and she got to go. As she now receives dialysis you will often find her hugging Mickey, drawing in her Cinderella notepad or snuggled in her Goofy sweatshirt. Memories she has to help her through the treatments.

Our stories go on and on of the wonderful memories as well as day to day necessities that Snowflake has provided. We could not do this without the support of you. With state cuts and our population aging, our funds are stretched to the maximum. We also have been experiencing a number of our people diagnosed with cancer. A medical condition we were not use to dealing with. We can handle feeding tubes, diabetes, seizures, etc., but people with developmental disabilities didn't get cancer. Not true today. And so, many resources must go to the dealing with the chemotherapy and radiation treatment. Our people have been real troopers as they are stuck, hooked up and sit there patiently as they receive their treatments. Our staff has been phenomenal. This is just a matter of fact for them. It is a member of our family and we do what we have to do.

And so this holiday season we are very blessed with all the wonderful people who call Community Living their family. We are further blessed with the wonderful community who has embraced us without reservation and sees us all as an important member of the community. We wish you all a Joyous Holiday Season and the Happiest of New Years.

# Ongoing Activities and Events

We'll start our Round up of the News with our venerable Red Snow Cone Trailer. Many of the Support Services clients have become quite proficient at making it hum on its own, and the proof was at several businesses we stopped at late in August and Sept. Our friends at State Farm invited us during lunch break and we were delighted to meet some of our friends from Christmas.



Even more importantly, we were delighted to be asked to break the monotony of a hot day in Sept. at our next door neighbor, MedImmune and dish out over 300 snowcones to them to help motivate them to keep developing new vaccines. It was great to meet our neighbors! Sarah will look for other businesses that need a lunch time break next spring. Of course, the Snow Cone trailer was at Oktoberfest and was successful there, too.

## Vocational Program

The vocational program is enjoying its space at 520 N. Market St. Our laundry program flourishes, as we continue to do the laundry from several businesses at local Laundromats. The clients fold and do the ironing at 520. Laundry is something that the entire program participates in. Sarah was especially pleased when Daniel ironed all of her holiday linens for her ahead of Thanksgiving! Brandi and Aleta are proud volunteers at the Frederick County YMCA, assisting at the Courtesy Desk. Patsy worked for a local realtor on a bulk mailer task.



Colleen and Aleta are working at Head to Toe in Jefferson with hair clean-up, towel washing, drying and folding and restocking of materials. Jimmy, Wesley, Gerald and Ray

When one thinks of Thanksgiving, it's usually a vision of a table with family and friends sitting around a table loaded with food. For some of our people in the Independent Services program, jobs and distant family, make this difficult. But they and their staff banded together and went to a place that they knew would provide good value and lots of company: Golden Corral. The crowds didn't matter. We can't emphasize enough what a good time J.R., Bobby, Tracey, Ricky W. and staff Mady had. Getting seconds was easy, and we heard that the pies were fabulous! As always, the chocolate fountain was the sure fire winner. And laughter was the main thing that occurred the entire two hours...what could be better?



volunteered at the ReStore Store stocking shelves for some time. Bobby and Daniel are shredding for the University of Maryland's School of Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics.

Aaron tells us that every day at Renn Kirby is "excellent, truly excellent." He was featured in a "Slice of Life" article in the Frederick News Post detailing how he ensures that each car on the lot is tidy both inside and out. Colleen and Timmy help deliver Gazette newspapers.



We are applying for positions at a variety of locations and continue to need your assistance and support in finding jobs for the people we serve. If you ever have a tip of a job please call Sarah Matthews at 301-663-8811 X203. The job can be both in-house or on-site. All on-site employees come with a job coach and transportation is included.

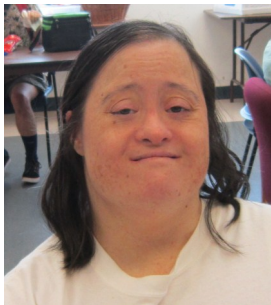
# People new to CLI

More new faces and friends to make here at CLI. We are delighted to be able to continue to welcome new members to the family that is CLI.

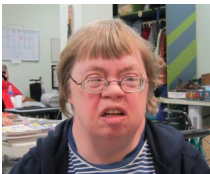
Colleen is a participant in our Vocational Program as well as ISS. Colleen's job with the Voc. Program is working at the Head to Toe Salon, sweeping the floors, doing the laundry, and tidying up. She graduated from Rock Creek, and lives at home with Mom with their 2 cats. Since becoming a part of CLI, she has discovered she really likes girls night out with Kathy, and volunteered at the ReStore Store for some time.



Lisa is a new member of the ROW program. She has two grown brothers. Some of her favorite foods are peas, French Fries and Chicken McNuggets. She lives at home with her parents and three cats. Her biggest responsibility is turning out all the lights before she goes to bed. She is quiet but pays attention to all that is going on around her.



Karen has also joined the ROW program. She lives with her parents on a farm and spent much of her life assisting them with farming and farming events all over the region. She cooks fried eggs and hot cakes for her Mom and Dad! She does the dishes every evening at home and mops and sweeps. Her favorite TV shows are The Price is Right and A-Team. She knew Eva from Jeanne Bussard and was happy to see her again at ROW. Karen likes doing simple crafts and is very careful when she colors.



Linda M. was fairly introspective when we first met her as part of the Dept. of Support Services program. She lives with her Dad and they do much to support each other. She works at the Extension Service through Scott Key Center.

Linda was fairly quiet when she first joined us, but boy, has she opened up! She had never played kickball before but tries SO hard and has become a valued member both in the outfield and at catcher on our agency team. Marty reports she is becoming an excellent golfer. And all of us love joking with her and her sly asides! She is appreciative of CLI and we are appreciative of her.

Aleta lives in a group home with Tina and Fredda. Aleta loves socks that are holiday themed but she isn't sure she has many that are suitable for Christmas. She has been many places including Ocean City and Florida. Her favorite restaurant is the Golden Corral because of their chicken. And, a sound of trotting horses now....her favorite TV show is Bonanza!



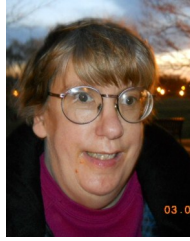
Chelsea has become a resident in one of our homes. She tells me through her communication device that she is very happy here. Chelsea is a whiz at data entry and has done several big projects for us. Chelsea enjoys her books and has read the whole Harry Potter series. She is a big fan of Classics. Since we all were talking about favorite foods, she was quick to tell us that her favorites were pumpkin and absolutely anything with chocolate.



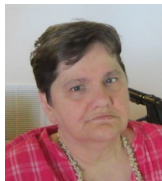


# The busy lives of the people of CLI

Susie A.'s family had a swimming party for her in early Sept. Five others joined Susie and her family for swimming, burgers and dessert. Everyone had a great time. Now that it is turning cooler, it is nice to have those warm weather memoires to hold onto. Susie say she'll have another party next year.



When Mary Sanders says her prayers at night. It encompasses everything and everyone. And it really targets what is most important as you will see. She says " I pray for my family to be good and healthy, I pray for Elvis and cocoa else. Amen". Prayer, we think!



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Vineet is an artist! We didn't know this until Carlota told us that he had submitted a piece of art into an exhibit and got a 2nd place ribbon! We are eager to see this piece and some of the other things he has done.



And speaking of art, our Schifferstadt pictures are now sitting over the mantle of the bread oven at the Schifferstadt building. They received many accolades during Frederick County Landmark's Oktoberfest. And another wonderful segue, the Oktoberfest at the Fairgrounds was a huge success and it was in no small part because of all the CLI volunteers. Everywhere you turned there was another friendly CLI face. Many thanks to all of you who contributed to this event that CLI inaugurated and continuing the tradition of it being the success it is.

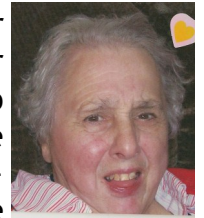


Stanley had a great adventure in April. He went on his first airplane ride to Phoenix, Ari-

zona for the Special Olympics National Golf Tournament. We all know Stanley is a big guy, but he opted to sit in that window seat so he could see every bit of our country. He enjoyed the golf, but said he kept looking up at the mountains that surround Phoenix. He enjoyed the colors and wished he had more time to explore. Oh....by the way....he did well with his golf, too!



Donna has confounded all the medical experts and is still with us. The ROW family has been going to visit her every week and now that her health is better she comes to ROW on special occasions. She enjoys the busyness of the activities of ROW but is tired by the end of the day.



We were very pleased to have been selected as one of the non-profits that the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce Leader's on Loan Program will assist. Specifically, Leaders on Loan is targeting our SnowCone business, helping us identify ways to make this business more visible and profitable. The members of the LOL



team are from businesses in the Frederick area who donate their time to us, developing new and innovative ways for us to market our Snow Cone business. Already they have said we must have the Community Living logo on the trailer, and our workers need to wear CLI aprons when they serve. They think we should be at local soccer tournaments as a way to sell Snow Cones and raise visibility. They also are toying with the idea of a Snowcone logo....what fun!



## More news from around the CLI world

Our Golfers had a great time at the State Tournament. Ricky W., Janet Stanley, Pauline, Linda W. Linda M., Steve L., Lynn, Willie, Bobby, Timmy, Vineet, Iman, David, John D. Anaelle, Gerald, and Ricky M. Coaches for this group were Marty Young, Greg Loss, Carol Loss, and Matt Anderson. Stanley moved to Level two for 2013.



As long as we have the Linden home Coralyn Kuehl and other volunteers from Brook Hill United Methodist Church have been doing Spring and Fall clean up at our Linden home. This fall was no exception. They raked leaves, picked up sticks and beautified with some mums. We appreciate what they do for us year after year.



Our Football Mania pool has been doing very well. Two of our staff's sisters have won and so far we distributed over \$600 back to people who have supported it. Thanks for helping out CLI!



The clients and staff in ROW made very cute Reindeer from wine corks. We are now selling these at the Frederick Basket Company (in Shab Row). You can purchase them there, or here at the office. If

you have spare wine corks, we'll take them too, and won't tell anyone your secret (sip, sip!)

A large group of people went to W.V. to ride the Cass Scenic Railroad. They spent the night in the Cumberland area in a rustic camp. The next morning they were up early

scenery. People commented on how neat it was that they were at the rear of the train and could see the engine on some of the curves.



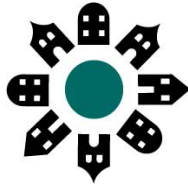
Even though the gardens have been cleaned up, magic was happening underneath the soil. Karen Hull took the gardeners from ROW back to the plot and dug up some of the biggest sweet potatoes we've ever seen. And the fingerlings made wonderful sweet potato snacks! What a great late fall surprise.



Marty has been teaching a very interesting class to some of our ladies. The class is titled "Healthy Breast" and Marty won a grant to acquire teaching materials, including a breast apron to help teach our women and staff how to detect lumps and prepare for mammograms. Marty's class is educational and from the eavesdropping at the door: fun! A lot of giggles have been happening in that room. But, the clients have already shared some of what they have learned and are eager to visit FMH's mammogram clinic in the near future to learn about that procedure. Thanks to the Women's Giving Circle for the funds to help with this process.



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**Community Living**

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