



# Connections

The in-house newsletter of Community Living, Inc.

August 2012

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Community Living**

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## CEO Susan Holton

This has been a difficult couple of months for Community Living. But as always, the staff rose to all the challenges and put the people we serve first. For the last two years we have assisted Chris in his battle with cancer. Our guy, who stands tall, endured surgeries and chemotherapy without a whimper. He smiled till the end as people gathered around him to make him laugh and be comfortable. With the assistance of Hospice, he quietly passed surrounded by those who loved him.

Donna came home to us on Hospice services having experienced a number of mini strokes and being told it would not be long now. Well, we are into our second month and Donna continues to smile and worry about her looks. While she remains home, she continues to be alert talking and laughing, just defying that last major stroke. When that time comes she will be at peace with it as she has told us she wanted. Donna lost her best friend George ten years ago and she tells us how happy she will be to see him once again. And so as they always have, our people continue to teach us valuable lessons each and every day.

Chip and Lindsay continue to beat the odds over and over again as well. Each are dealing with serious, chronic illnesses and in Chip's case, he adds brain cancer to the list. Yet, they both have sunny dispositions and take whatever is thrown their way. Doctors are becoming more receptive to treat-

ing our folks and in the end say how much they learn. They begin to understand our love for our jobs and that there is such a thing as quality of life for our folks. In fact as one doctor put it; "Thank you for this experience to treat your resident. I have learned what simple enjoyment of life is". How true.

While we were dealing with all the illness we were also thrown the curveball of Jeanne Bussard Center closing. Again, everyone stepped up to the plate and said let's do this. And what was "this"; starting our own vocational program. We already had seen the handwriting on the wall so we had our vocational license; we just thought we would have time to put it all together. With a lot of creativity, often crammed spaces and ideas flying we will officially opened our Vocational Services at 520 N. Market Street on September 4th. We will continue to struggle to find appropriate jobs for the people in the program, as well as building on their skill levels to continue to strive for a life full of new experiences.

As we continue down this path of what we see as our mission of full wrap around services we welcome any and all ideas of how to do this. We take seriously our desire to have our people enjoy life to their fullest potential through work and play. It is after all what each and every one of us strives for. Our people have it down, as the country song goes, Live Like You Were Dying. I hope we all learn that lesson before our time comes.

# Ongoing Activities and Events

Throughout CLI, many things occur to make this organization run smoothly. Many of them are particular to each department, but all create the whole that makes CLI successful. One of the biggest events of the year still remains **Oktoberfest, Sept. 29 & 30th**, at the Frederick Fairground. Although we are not directly responsible for the organization of this event, we continue to show our support by volunteering as much as possible. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Sarah Matthews know at 301-663-8811 X 203.

The Maintenance Dept., and the Grant writer are busy submitting a grant through the state to update one of our many homes. This grant will help update the infrastructure of this aging home and make it appropriate for the residents living there. This team is also evaluating Em-POWER grants to retrofit several homes to meet higher energy standards. We're busy applying for a grant to receive funding to upgrade our extremely old computer hardware in the homes, and another grant pursuing



even more vehicles. Other things that occur on a regular basis around here are yearly Financial Audits by an outside firm. The 6 weeks of the audit are a very thorough look at our financial well being and as a consequence, how well our Agency is being operated.

Training is a major component of our support to our staff, and thus to the people we serve. The state mandates a certain kind of training and minimum hours. We go above this to be sure that our staff is knowledgeable and comfortable on all aspects of caring for people with disabilities. We constantly modify the training to reflect new knowledge in our field. Most months there are over 35 trainings offered to people in all departments. We see training as an ongoing important component of the well-being of our organization.



## News about JBC at CLI

By the time this goes to press, we will have moved our vocational day program to its new, temporary home at 520 N. Market St. We thank Frederick County Government for making this space available to us. It certainly was getting pretty cramped in the back training area, but we all were glad to at last have a place to have the JBC workers call home.

We have maintained several laundry jobs and our clients are doing the washing, drying and folding in local Laundromats. Ironing we are doing in-house. One client is at a local hotel doing laundry there. We hope to have another person placed at a car dealer assisting with tidying the car lot, washing cars, keeping the showroom clean as well as cleaning the shop areas. A large group interviewed at

TJ Maxx, complete with finished job applications. When you go to The Great Frederick County Fair, every single Fair prize was tied by our vocational people; all 3,000 of them.

When the clients aren't working they are doing other fun things with our staff. They have enjoyed the gazebo area, and really appreciate the YMCA pool. Once a month they go to the movies.

JBC at CLI is always looking for new job opportunities. Production line work is good, as is anything where 3 people can work on a task with one job coach. We'd like jobs that would be around 3 hours a day, but they can be more. Stuffing envelopes, assembling goodie bags, rolling silverware, performing light janitorial duties, stocking at places such as grocery stores and clothing stores are good employment options for us.

Please call Sarah Matthews at 301-663-8811

# People new to CLI

More new faces and friends to make here at CLI. We couldn't ask for anything better than to be part of a family that is always welcoming new members.

Bobby V. really likes having the ability to make choices. We like that Bobby lives like many young people today: with room-mates in an apartment. Bobby works at Ft. Detrick and is a faithful member of his church, attending services on Sunday and Weds. He is quite an able rider of his bike, enjoys all the flavors of Rita's Italian Ice, and once he is comfortable with you, has a wicked sense of humor. We are pleased he is part of the ISS program.



Have you ever been hanging out around any of the ISS folks and heard this great big laugh? Or heard "I win, I win" in the ISS area when a group are playing Wii in the late afternoon? We bet you were hearing Tim who really enjoys the challenges the games present to him. His dream job is to be a stocker in a store, and he thinks his Mom's spaghetti is the best. He lives with his Mom and Dad and often helps out with making breakfast.



Anna-El has one of the most engaging and biggest personalities in the ISS program. She, too, really enjoys Karaoke because it gives her a chance to dance and see her friends. She was born in Brazil and speaks fluent Hebrew, and is eager to teach her new nephew the language Hebrew. She works at Marshall's with clothing, loves McDonald's Sweet Tea, and deconstructing a McDonald's sandwich so that the pickle is last.



Let's have Michael tell us about Bradley. Bradley has begun receiving support services from CLI. Bradley is well-known around Frederick and is using his support staff to get out and do things he likes to do. He has been playing Bocce with the Special Olympics, going out to eat, and has been to the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Bradley is a very personable young man, and is happy just being around people. He has worked at Goodwill for almost 15 years and really enjoys his work.



Rhonda Corbett has joined us in the Finance Dept. at CLI after a 10 year stint at DDA Western Region. We welcome her understanding of state funding and hope she is having fun having clients walk into her office all day long. Rhonda lives in Mercersburg and one of the best ways to get to know Rhonda is to ask about the stickers on her car. The stories about them are just too much fun and I don't have space. Really, do make the time to ask!



Susie likes iPad games, and is very good at Operation and can beat Lottie. We know that playing these games are very good for her eye/hand coordination. She adores anything to do with cats and has two at the home she shares with her sister Donna. She likes swimming in her Mom's pool, but we can't coax her into the pool at the Y yet. Her other favorite things are Coke and Karaoke.



# The busy lives of the people of CLI



When we hire new staff, they receive over 90 hours of training. And all staff periodically obtain updated training on CPR and any other new aspects that would enhance the well-being of the people we serve. We were very pleased when the residents of Schley Ave asked to learn CPR. One resident, Ricky, has had heart problems in the past, and the other two, Janet and Stanley, wanted to know what to do in case there was any difficulty. Marty was glad to teach all three CPR.



Daniel and the other gents at 318 Thomas were happy to welcome a new 4 legged friend to their home. She is a 7 year old rescue lab and is very well behaved. The naming issue is over....her name is Zoe!



Janice has been appointed to the Scott Key Center Board of Directors. We know she will serve with dedication. We are very proud of her!

Late in June, Wes, Jimmy, Chip, staff Angelique and Chip's sister, sister-in-law and brother went on a Disney cruise to Nova Scotia. They sailed from NYC where Wes was convinced the ship was too big to get onto and went to Nova Scotia where Angelique in particular enjoyed Peggy's Cove and then to Halifax. They had a fabulous time.

We were pleased to participate in the second Plein Aire painting exhibit held at the Delaplaine. Ricky W., Danny, Charles, Jeanne, and Janet took 3 days to put their ideas of Schifferstadt on canvas. We have 4 remaining paintings on



the wall outside Marty's office and you can see how differently each artist sees the same place. As always, we thank the instructors from Art on Wheels for their invaluable assistance and encouragement.

Another vacation trip was taken by Ricky M. and his house staff Ron to Nashville. They travelled 13 hours via bus to get there. Once there it doesn't seem they were still at all. They heard music every evening, enjoyed the Grand Ol' Opry, a back-stage tour at the Ryman Auditorium and the Country Music Hall of Fame. Ricky also recorded a song and we're waiting for it to make the big time!



Every summer we have 2 or 3 summer interns in ROW and this summer has been no different except that our interns have been helping out with our Jeanne Bussard clients as well. Brienne, Laura and Ana have proven to be a big help to us this summer pitching in where ever we've needed. Each tells me they have a favorite, but won't tell who it is.



Another one of our homes went on vacation to Ocean City this summer. Chelnecia took BJ, Susie and Laura earlier in the summer. Susie and Laura really enjoyed the ocean, but BJ did not like it one bit. She did however, enjoy the train, and didn't want to ever get off.

Ask Kim what she thinks of the new dog at 1331 Hillcrest and she'll tell you that she wants to "take that dog home!" While Chris was with us he enjoyed Oreo, and Steve and Gerald are very sure that Oreo gets his walks.

# Sports news and other bits from around the CLI world

What can we say about Kickball? A whole lot, as it ends up. After 3 years, and horrific losses such as 36-2, we finally won our first game. Gerald, Ricky M., Linda M., Dennis, Timmy, Omair, JR, Ricky W., Vineet, Jeffrey and Linda W. all have made giant strides in learning position play and, more importantly

 team work. When we ended that winning game, many of our players just trotted off the field as usual, full of smiles and

gracious remarks to the other team. The team truly did not understand they had won, until our opposing team started congratulating us! What a wonderful success! Thanks also to our supporting team members of Kathy, Andrew, Lily, Bob, Michelle, Sarah, and Greg.



There is a lot of activity and hustle bustle at Cunningham Lake on Sat. mornings. Kayaks are being unloaded, Personal Flotation de-



vices being snugged up, appropriately sized paddles found, and then Kayaks launched. Our paddlers include: Dennis, Linda W., Linda M., Ray.

Janet, Bobby, Gerald, Steve and AnnaEl. Our helpers are Marty, Kathy, Alan and Deb.

And another sport we are participating in is Golf on Tuesday evenings. Carlota has Alan, Marty, Andrew, Vanessa, Lindsey, Ben and Mattie S. helping her. We are especially grateful to Ray and Carole Loss for helping. Our golfers are: Lynn, Anna El, Gerald, Stanley, Ricky W, Ricky M., Janet, Linda M, Linda W. Tim, Bradley Bobby V, Vineet, Omair, Iman, David and Steve to learn how to do skills such as putt and drive. We are very excited that some of the golfers actually play 9 holes of golf.

The Dukes of Hazard turned out to be a pretty big deal around here! Three vans drove two hours to see the original gang. Wesley reported to Susan and Michael that they had gotten old! Dennis said he shook hands with a legend. Everyone got pictures seated in the General Lee. Apparently you could hear James' holler all the way back here in Frederick.



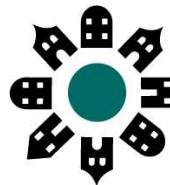
The Snow Cone trailer has been very successful this summer. At our last event, held at State Farm, it was simply amazing to see Carlota sitting in a chair. What this means is that she has trained excellent workers who know the operations of the trailer. Those excellent workers include J.R., Stanley, Tracey, Colleen and Ricky W. Don't forget to look for the trailer at Oktoberfest!



How well our gardens grow! A couple times a week, Danny fills up multiple gallon jugs of water to take to the garden at the plot at the Frederick News Post. Fellow gardeners Ricky W., James, and Charles have watered and tended the peppers, watermelons, tomatoes, and potatoes under Karen Hall's tutelage.



Willie also had good luck with his crop of jalapeno peppers, tomatoes, peppers and potatoes. Sarah is waiting for the rhubarb to come back next year. And we've all enjoyed the bounty from the fig tree. Ricky W. and Willie have picked dozens and dozens of figs from the tree Dr. Tauraso left us. We've all felt fortunate to have this bounty from all three gardens.



**Community Living**

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