



Connections

The In-House Newsletter of Community Living, Inc.

Spring 2014

**Volunteer
Board of Directors
of
Community Living,
Inc.**

**President
Larry Schaffert**

**Vice President
Treasurer
David Goldman**

**Secretary
Marilyn
Dolbeare-
Mathews**

Dr. Harvey Levy

Michele Krause

Sean Kirby

Linda Maddox



CEO, Susan B. Holton

BON ANNIVERSAIRE, CLI! This year marks thirty-five years since we have been making a positive difference in the lives of people with disabilities. It is a significant milestone and as I think about the meaning of our work, in so many ways all of you have been doing the same for me. Who knew that when I came to CLI nearly twenty-six years ago that I would still be here today – bearing witness to all the wonderful changes that have taken place? Every person who has passed through our doors has inspired me in some way, influencing my choices and guiding some tough decisions, but all were for the greater good of the people we serve.

As I begin my journey into the next phase I take with me gifts that are invaluable: FRIENDSHIPS, LIFE LESSONS and BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES in my heart of all those who have come and gone. Through all of my experiences and interactions with you I hope I have conveyed how much I have loved leading this wonderful agency. For my husband Ed and I, CLI has been our family. Holidays were always spent here. That's when things would really happen so I had to be around in the early years. And after that it was because a few of our people needed a place to go. Kitty always had a seat at our dinner table, bringing a smile to my face as she lovingly called my own mother, "Mom." Early on, Charlie, who was a dapper gentleman, asked my mother to marry him – with a wink of his eye and a sly smile. I am not sure my mother ever really knew what I did for a living, but her neighbors would tell me how she would return home with lots of stories to tell of life at my house over the holidays.

The years flew by and by. As most of you know I took what has become known as a "six-month-sabbatical," during which time I stayed involved with nonprofit work and came back to CLI fully recharged. The issues in our community remain the same. Funding, in particular, is always at the top of everyone's agenda and unfortunately I am sorry to say it doesn't get any better with time. Nonetheless, we seem to have come full circle and we are fighting the same battles over and over again. Your phone calls do make a difference in this area, though, so please keep reaching out to legislators when asked! Our staff and countless others across the board are not paid anywhere near their worth, and I

may never understand this aspect of our field. What I do know for sure is that you stay because you are dedicated to what you do.

Good byes are never easy, but for me the timing is right. Michael is ready to take the helm and he has my full support and confidence. He will be hiring someone to take over a new position as Residential Director. In the past the role has always been known as "Program Director," but with the growth in our Support Services division and the addition of Vocational Services, we really need to keep things separate. Residential will stand as a separate department as well. There will be little to no changes in the way things are done, except for Michael's efforts to continue pushing CLI forward. He knows I am always there for him if he needs assistance and the same goes for you. Call me. Send me an email. I AM and ALWAYS will be available to hear your thoughts.

Ed and I will forever be committed to CLI. In fact, we have included the organization in our estate planning through *The Monocacy Foundation*. Our instructions are clear and concise, in that whatever is needed to enhance the lives of staff, by all means it should be done. All staff, no matter what they do for the agency, gives up so much to make CLI the fantastic organization that it is and that has never left us for as long we have been here. If you are reading this and haven't experienced the commitment each person makes, I personally invite you to join us for our next activity or to volunteer at a house. Not only will you get a much clearer sense about what it means to care for our people, you will also become hooked on CLI. In 26 years I have seen volunteers become full-time employees, and some have even assumed guardianship of the people we care about. We are a family first and always, and those are the real reasons why folks, including myself, continue to go the extra mile and stay.

I will miss the hugs, smiles and the laughter. I will miss our talks about your family and children, many of whom joined our team. I will miss seeing our people grow, carving their niche on our family tree, but what will bring me comfort is the knowledge that they are in good hands and I THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

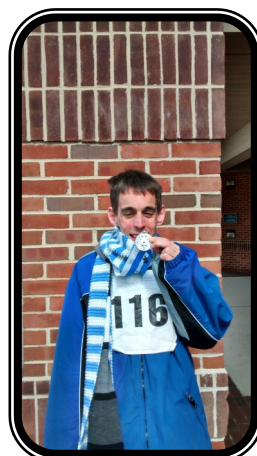
Spring marks the beginning of the social season, when folks come out of winter hibernation to take a delight in various activities and community events! And boy did we get into a lot this year! It was a privilege to present our beloved Frederick with its first ever Irish Festival over Memorial Day Weekend! Yep, THE IRISH CAME TO FREDERICK...and have decided to keep coming back! After years of doing Oktoberfest, we handed the event over to the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek. However, we still do need to seek new ways to raise funds for our people, and thus, the Frederick Irish Festival was born! Like Oktoberfest, Irish Fest will be fundraiser for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The inaugural event was held at the Frederick Fairgrounds and since it took place over Memorial Day Weekend, the American Legion's Brunswick Chapter carried out a special tribute to Veterans. Our very own Maintenance Director, Shane, is a member of the troop. CLI also received a donation from the group, and Frederick Mayor Randy McClement read a proclamation from the City. Pictures speak a thousand words...so you know A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!



Meanwhile, our folks are keeping busy! We're just trying to keep up! Early in the year many made their way down the road to catch a Towson University Men's Basketball game... compliments of our friend, Mr. Jim Gangawere! They enjoyed themselves, and they took some luck with them to the game, too! Towson won! Here's a shot of the gang getting ready to take their seats.



And just look at what Alex has been up to...baking, skiing and all!



CSLA and ISS have been on the move, too...and since you couldn't be there Carlota has captured their moments!

2014 has brought yet another GREAT snow-shoeing season. Over the last three months, we've been practicing, practicing and practicing! Supper usually follows each practice, where we convene at Kathy's farm house and her husband, Richard, cooks a giant pot of soup. The soup is always more than enough to feed the group. The rest of the meal is prepared by members on the team. With Heather's guidance, Colleen, Iman and Susie A. have been doing a fabulous job with this activity thanks to donations from our friends that give us "share food" every month. With some assistance from Kathy, our main cooks are Colleen, Linda M. and Linda W.



In other news, we continue to volunteer in the community! Our latest endeavor was the "80's Retro Marathon." It was a cold and windy day and our volunteers went out and did a fantastic job. We also participated in the "Frederick Running Festival," helping runners and their families navigate the logistics of the day...and of course, having LOTS OF FUN doing it! Just look at An-aelle's smile! She LOVES listening to Dina (pictured above on right) on WFRE in the mornings, and the station was sponsor of Irish Fest!

We are gearing up for a brand new adventure this summer! Richmond, South Africa, HERE WE COME! In late August we will join the nonprofit organization "Hope for South Africa" in their efforts to help children who have Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. We have been fundraising for a while and we will be accelerating the pace soon. Bobby Van Dyk and Stanley Frederick have been eager to show folks in other countries how successful individuals with disabilities can become, using themselves as prime examples. With disabilities, there can be many abilities, a fact that is often overlooked in other parts of the world. Bobby and Stanley will run sports training sessions and arts and crafts classes. They will be accompanied by Sewon Bestman, Deb Folin and Carlota Salter, joining Rotarians from Frederick. We're thrilled, having already received our vaccines and purchased the plane tickets.

Another major component to this trip is the opportunity to bring smiles to the faces of young children. We plan to take lego blocks and other toys, as well as some baby clothes to another group in the country working with children born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Women who refrain from alcohol during their pregnancies will be given clothes for their babies. Our teams are gearing up for the work ahead—the garage sale and thrift shop team will be looking for clothes in good condition so send them our way. The Craft Team will make bibs, and the Production Team will wash, iron and sort the clothes and put them in baggies with labels denoting size and gender. The Fundraising Team will continue to carry out projects to raise funds. Stayed tuned for more on Hope in South Africa and about our trip!



Lest we not forget...Terry Cramer is very happy these days! He was elected to the Board of the Eagle's Club. Tammy has taken Terry to countless meetings there, assisting him in fulfilling his dream. Congrats, Terry!

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

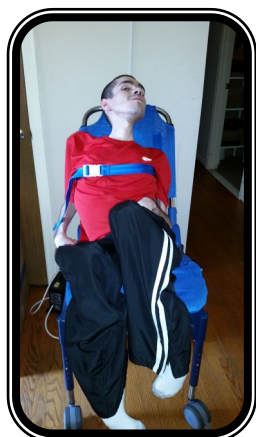
One of the hallmarks of our foundation is community partnerships. As a nonprofit, we are incredibly privileged and lucky to have such wonderful allies throughout the Frederick community and beyond who not only support our mission, but are willing to go to the end of the earth to ensure that our people receive adequate care, services and resources. United Healthcare has long been an advocate and supporter of CLI. In addition to bringing gifts to our people during the holidays, in the spring time employees volunteer their services by doing housework at some of our homes. This year the group visited our residences on Pennsylvania Avenue and West 10th Street, painting the deck and shutters, planting flowers in the front and back of the houses and cleaning the outdoor furniture. They did a TERRIFIC job and we are so grateful to have them in our corner...and LeClair agrees!



- Special THANKS to the **Community Foundation of Frederick County**, which awarded us two grants that funded a stair lift and an outside ramp at Beaver Creek. Joe, Paula and the whole crew there are so very happy! The Community Foundation also gave us the resources to be able to buy cubbies and laundry items for our Vocational Program as well as a liftchair for ROW.

- Major THANKS to the **City of Frederick** for providing us with the funding to do repair work on the exterior of Hitching Post, and to build a new bathroom at the office. We are so appreciative!

- Kudos to the **Different Needz Foundation** for purchasing a new shower chair for Tad! Founded in 2009, the Chagrin Falls, Ohio based organization helps individuals with developmental disabilities obtain the necessary equipment and medical services they need to have the best quality of life.



- We also wish to thank the **Knights of Columbus** for its contribution earlier this year! The group gave us a donation on behalf of the Steve Loss, whose dad is a member of the organization.



- And last but certainly not least, it was another big year for us! Snowflake 2013 brought in more than \$25K, which will go toward purchasing medical supplies, personal items, taking care of expenses not covered by insurance and providing assistance with other personal requests for our people. This is an AMAZING feat, one that could not and would not have been accomplished without your help! For that we say THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU and THANK YOU!

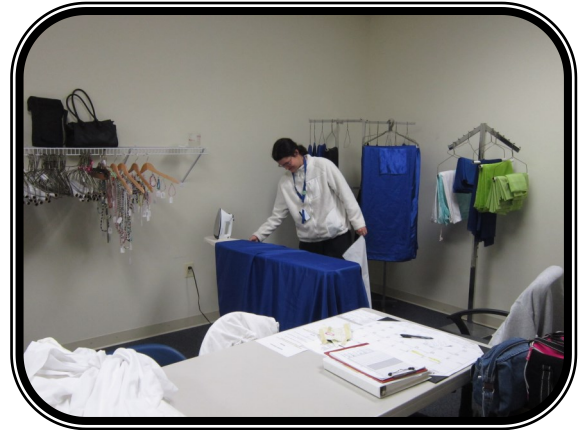
- Meanwhile, did you smell what the folks at Wisner were cookin'? Folks in our Vocational Program have been learning about culinary skills and food preparation. In March, we were invited to the Center to experience first-hand some of the techniques they have been learning, including table set-up, folding napkins, table manners and basic etiquette. The pictures do little to speak on the success of **DELIworks**, and we cannot wait for the next one!





The Vocational Program has been on a roll lately! Through fundraising and help from their partners in the community, the program was able to purchase a commercial washer and dryer. And THANKS to the **Foundation for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Chesapeake District - Civitan International, Incorporated**, it was also awarded a grant to buy a press.

Participants continue to hone their skills in a variety of areas, including learning about business principles as it pertains to their laundry



and jewelry business. The team has also incorporated Recreational Therapy as part of their daily processes, allowing folks an opportunity to tap into their creative side and make beautiful arts and crafts pieces which are available for sale. The initiative promotes effective social and money skills, as well as independence and product development techniques. These skills also aid in promoting comradery and team work!



MEET & GREET

Arff! My name is Roxie Young and I am the CLI office dog/hugger upper/the only one allowed in closed-door meetings in Susan's office! Pssst, your secrets are safe with me, so long as you promise to feed me and rub my belly. My mom, Marty - who is submitting this note on my behalf - brings me to work with her every morning, and boy do I love going to work at CLI! I have two moms actually, as Susan takes good care of me, too! I look forward to my weekly deliveries at the office courtesy of Susan. I have made many friends here and they also give me yum-my treats. Occasionally, a few individuals make me do a "hi-5" before I can have the treat and that never gets old.



I meet so many people at CLI, and if I show them my big brown eyes and fall down on the floor they rub my back and I LOVE that. Sometimes I groan because it feels so good! When my mom is teaching a class I go with her. I've been to so many classes I think I could probably teach CPR, First Aid and even Choking Prevention in one sitting. I applied to be her assistant, but we could not agree on salary! I love going into the ROW room! I know everyone in the program. Bill B. calls me "pooch" and I kind of like that name. Everyone wants to pet me and I let them do it. Tess can't pet me because she can't use her hands very well, but we like to just look at each other.

I don't remember much about my life before my mom got me, but I know I am one lucky dog. A little over a year ago, I ended up in an animal shelter in North Carolina. I was scheduled to be euthanized at 5pm, but a very nice lady came in and took me out of the animal shelter at 4:35 pm...had she been come 30 minutes later, I wouldn't be here. She took me home and fed me and gave me a bath. I stayed with her for three weeks, then a man came, put me in a cage and drove away. He drove all night, and early in the morning he stopped and a lady came to the van, took me out of the cage and walked me. I was in Aberdeen. The next day, another lady drove up in a blue car, got out, sat down on the floor and started to rub me. She told me how beautiful I was and then she put me in her car and drove away. When the car finally stopped she told me that I was home. After taking a necessary bathroom break I started exploring my new yard. I could smell rabbits and groundhogs. Then she opened the door to my new house. I found my new food bowl, my new water bowl, and a new bed. I crawled in her lap and fell fast asleep. I knew then that I was home.



As we celebrate Roxie's year with us, we also welcome Matthew to the CLI family. We have known Matthew's family for some time, so he is not "new" per se, but he became a full-time CLI resident in November 2013. A graduate of Rock Creek School, Matthew has been participating in the Day Program at Star Community in Hagerstown since 2008. One of his favorite activities is eating and he especially likes pizza, cheeseburgers, and ice cream! He enjoys taking walks and LOVES to go swimming any time of the year! Matthew likes attending CLI dances and parties and will wiggle his eyebrows at the ladies when asked! His parents and two sisters are always happy to see him when he visits and are pleased that he is adjusting well to his new extended family. Welcome aboard, Matthew!



Jerry Allen Martin

1964 - 2014

*"The tide recedes but leaves behind
bright seashells on the sand.
The sun goes down, but gentle
warmth still lingers on the land.
The music stops, and yet it echoes
on in sweet refrains.....
For every joy that passes,
something beautiful remains."*
-Unknown



As we reflect on the highlights of the season, we dedicate this issue to our dear friend and colleague, Jerry A. Martin. Jerry was a special part of the CLI family, touching everyone he came across – figuratively and literally. As one of our Licensed Practical Nurses, he was always there to care for our people in their time of need. He was a good listener and always offered great advice. Jerry loved his work and he loved us. He will forever remain in our hearts.



Community Living, Inc.
620-B Research Court
Frederick, MD 21703

Phone: 301.663.8811
Fax: 301.663.0476
E-mail: info@CommunityLivingInc.org

Check out our web site!
www.CommunityLivingInc.org

Discover more about Community Living, Inc. on Facebook and Twitter!

