

Connections

The internal newsletter of Community Living, Inc.

A word from our CEO

Special points of interest:

- Bingo!
- Spring party
- What's happening
- What's new

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The past few years have seen significant changes at Community Living. Some of those have impacted senior leadership, as people who have been in important positions for many years have retired and new people have come in to take their places.

We started a vocational services program. For more than 30 years, CLI provided mostly residential services. Even our support services were primarily focused on in-home supports. When we were suddenly thrust into a position to do vocational services, it created a need for different staff with different skills. We are now providing services to new people every year as students transition out of school.

In addition to the internal changes, there are, as I have mentioned before, external changes that have an impact on how we operate. New processes and procedures and new expectations mean we have to be constantly willing to step outside of our comfort zones and think of new ways to do things.

All of these factors combined emphasize the importance of updating our strategic plan. An organization without a plan will be directionless. It's important to have a goal or set of goals which are clearly articulated to everyone and toward which everyone is working. Without goals and

a plan of how to accomplish them, it's easy to get off track or develop mission creep, in which the organization ends up doing many things poorly and few things very well.

Last year, we received a grant from The Ausherman Family Foundation that allowed us to hire a consultant to facilitate our strategic plan update. Beginning in November, he completed an organizational assessment in which he interviewed people from all levels of the organization, from board members to outside stakeholders. Using that information, we have begun the work of developing the strategic plan. Once completed, we will begin the implementation phase.

I am excited at the potential this process has for moving the organization forward in a way that continues to meet the needs of everyone who has a stake in the organization and ensures we continue to provide quality services to the people we support.

I look forward to the future and I see many more good things to come for the Community Living Family.

—Michael Planz



Recent events

Spring bingo

CLI held its second annual bingo at the American Legion, Steadman-Keenan Post 96, in Brunswick, Saturday, May 14.

Doors opened at 5 p.m., but even before then, excited guests were lining up to buy tickets.

The evening kicked off at 5:30 p.m. with a great dinner provided by The Legion Riders. We had fried chicken, ham, applesauce and green beans, plus an assortment of brownies, blondies and lemon bars for dessert.

At 6:30, everyone was full and ready to win some prizes — and we had plenty of awesome prizes at that. From an assortment of gift cards to an incredible gourmet chocolate



basket, there was something for everyone. There was also a raffle for a new chair donated by Wolf's Furniture, in Frederick, and a one-of-a-kind watercolor painting, plus plenty of chances to win cash, including a 50/50 raffle.

The legion was packed for the event, and we sold

out — and then some. All in all, the evening was a huge success, with CLI raising more than \$5,300.

We can't wait for the next bingo!



Trinity UMC Spring Party

Trinity United Methodist Church, in Frederick, once again held its annual Spring Party for the individuals we serve at CLI.

This year's party, held Wednesday, May 18, was a blast for everyone in attendance. The room was decorated with seasonal table-

cloths and centerpieces matching the theme of spring.

And the food was spring-like, too. Chicken salad sandwiches, chips, pasta salad and iced tea, with mint chocolate pudding for dessert, helped usher in the warmer weather.



CLI in the Community



Left: Jon Thomas gets his workout on at Anytime Fitness, in Frederick. CLI partners with Anytime Fitness, which just opened this year, to offer exercise opportunities to the individuals we serve. The gym has been a great supporter of CLI, offering a free workout day for Special Olympics athletes, including several individuals we serve, every week.

Right: Matthew Schaffert poses for a picture behind a Redskins uniform. Several individuals we serve got the chance to take a trip to FedEx Field for the Redskins draft party, April 30.



Several individuals had the opportunity to attend two Towson University lacrosse games thanks to a gift of tickets from a TU alum.

Both the mascot and the players came by to speak with the CLI group. They also gave individuals a game ball and made sure that all who attended were able to purchase a lacrosse t-shirt, regardless of size.

To top things off, when the CLI van's outside mirror fell off, a member of the Towson University



maintenance staff volunteered to fix it so the group could safely get everyone back to their homes.



CLI in the Community

Gerald Fly, center, received the MACS Achievement Award Thursday, May 19.

Congratulations, Gerald! This award is given annually to one individual from each MACS member agency who demonstrates significant achievement in their personal or work life.

Here, Fly is shown with Bernie Simons, deputy secretary of the Developmental Disabilities Administration, and Laura Howell, executive director of the Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS).



**SPOTLIGHT
ON**

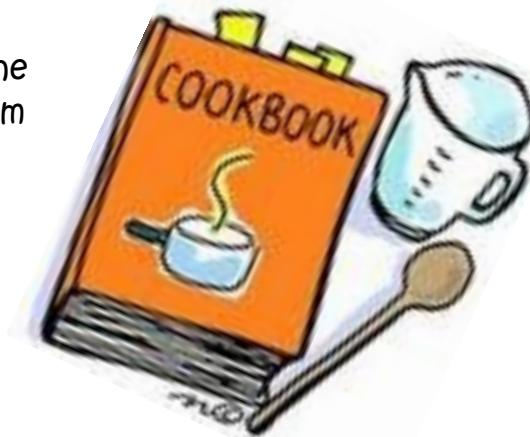
Patsy BOWERS

Patsy is sadly leaving CLI after 18 years of service. She started her career with CLI first as a volunteer in 1997. She was hired as a sub in 1998, before moving to direct care staff, house manager, and then one-on-one. In 2011, she became health care assistant, a position she's held ever since. Patsy has been a superb employee and her dedication to CLI and the individuals we serve was unmatched. She will be dearly missed.

Coming up at CLI — Family Cookbook

CLI is coming out with a family cookbook! We're so excited to include recipes from the wonderful people connected to CLI — from staff to supporters. If you have a recipe you'd like to submit, contact

Marybeth Thompson at marybetht@communitylivinginc.org,
or Elaina Clarke at elainac@communitylivinginc.org.



If recipes aren't your thing, you can participate in the cookbook another way, by submitting a photo to our staff contest. The winner's photo will appear on the cover of the family cookbook!

Here are the requirements:

- Photo must include individuals served by CLI.
- Photo subject is FOOD – eating, cooking, grocery shopping, etc. - be creative!
- Photo must be clear and in color - with lots of smiles and happy faces!
- Photo must be in portrait orientation (such that the longer side runs from top to bottom).

The contest ends June 30 and is open to all current CLI staff, with a limit of two entries per person. The winner will receive 2 copies of the CLI Family Cookbook plus a \$50 Wegmans gift card. Please email your photos in JPG or PNG format, include names of everyone in the photo (from left to right) to elainac@communitylivinginc.org.

Useful information:

If you have a family member who lives in CLI housing, your first point of contact after the direct support staff is the residence coordinator.

Here is how you can reach them:

RC Matt Cora — Starting June 2, 2016
matthewc@communitylivinginc.org
301-663-8811 x 1233

House	House phone number
110 Andover Court	240-578-4619
1712 Country Court	240-651-3961
590 Hillcrest Drive	240-578-4522
1331 Hillcrest Drive	240-578-4317
1848 Millstream Drive	240-578-4318
424 Pinoak Place	301-732-6499
1829 Millstream Drive	301-732-6393
1813 Beaver Creek	240-578-4572

Useful information:

**These are the residential coordinators
and the houses they manage (cont'd):**

RC Farhan Akhtar —
farhana@communitylivinginc.org
301-663-8811 x 1230

House	House phone number
1775 Heather Lane	240-651-0068
214 Linden Ave.	301-378-2090
3030 Mill Island Parkway, Apt. 104	240-651-0046
827 Motter Ave.	240-457-4190
7219 Rainbow Lane	240-578-4671
5012 St. Simon Court	301-798-8941
246 Wyngate Drive	301-732-5709
1501 W. Tenth St.	240-651-0278

Useful information:

These are the residential coordinators and the houses they manage (cont'd):

RC Assunta Hage — 301-663-8811 x 1216
assuntah@communitylivinginc.org

House	House phone number
425 Carrollton Drive	301-732-6090
208 Thomas Ave.	301-898-2017
50 Pennsylvania Ave.	240-651-5567
1401 Pinewood Drive	301-732-6406
412 Sherman Ave.	240-651-0067
1368 Hitching Post	240-578-4575

RC Martha Weeks — 301-663-8811 x 1215
marthaw@communitylivinginc.org

House	House phone number
1112 Young Place	240-651-0386
225 Wyngate Drive	240-651-0905
1807 Meadowgrove Lane	301-378-8573
6116 Quinn Orchard	240-651-0961

Fond farewells and warm welcomes

The following employees are
moving on to new adventures:

**Casey Harris - Director of Day
Services; 3 years of service**

**Kathy Garza - Residential
Coordinator; 2 years of service**

**Patsy Bowers - Health Services
Assistant; 18 years of service**

Thank you for your
years of service and dedication!



Welcome, new employees!

**Joyce Olabisi
Matthew Cora
Leslie Rockwell
Ayele Asso
Deaja Weedon
Alex Adjei
Wonkai Momolu
Roland Martell
Amadu Fofana
K'Lean Warfield
Matthew Bolino
Jessica Hamilton
Larry Spencer
Margaret lochner
Jontez Roberts
Zenabu Lachir**

**Dickson Amampah
Yolande Guei
Tujuannia Britt
Malbah Yella
Jessie Bunk
Elaina Clarke
Barbara Hawkins
Salai Shepley
Martha McPherson
Nikki Taylor
Gloria Pinnix
Tinena Newmen
Bryann Ingram
Nofisat Aremu
Debby Disney
Kenneth Hubbard
Geraldine Charles**



We'd love to stay connected!

Please send us your updated contact information (phone number, address and email) so we can keep you up to date on everything going on at CLI!

**Send your info to
elainac@communitylivinginc.org.**

**And be sure to follow us
on social media:
www.facebook.com/CLIFrederick
[@CLIFrederick](https://twitter.com/CLIFrederick)**

