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9/26/2011

Annual Golf Tournament
Ridgewood Country Club
Danbury, CT

10/9/2011

*Two For The Road - a concert to
Benefit Ability Beyond Disability*
Irvington Town Hall Theater
Irvington, NY

Please visit
www.abilitybeyonddisability.org
for more information

Reaching For The Stars

On Saturday, April 30th over 600 people filled the Amber Room Colonnade in Danbury for Ability Beyond Disability's "Reach For The Stars Gala"! The event broke records in attendance and fundraising. Over \$720,000 was raised to support our mission!



Money was raised through sponsorships, ad sales, ticket sales, silent and live auctions and our "Lend-a-Hand" auction - during which people are asked to raise their hands and give outright donations to Ability Beyond Disability. Brian, from CT Day & Work Services, entertained the crowd with music from his keyboard during the cocktail hour.

Each year the program features a video - this year's video highlighted Glenn and Lisa from CT, Jason from CT and Logan from NY. Each of the stories focused around each of their dreams and the role Ability Beyond Disability played in helping to achieve them. The stars received a standing ovation from the crowd!



Each year we also honor someone from the community with the Robert S. Young Humanitarian Award. Mr. Young was an early member of our Board of Directors and after his passing over 20 years ago, his family created an award that is proudly presented by Ability Beyond Disability each year to an individual or group whose efforts have positively contributed to improving the quality of life in the communities

we serve. This year's recipient of the Robert S. Young Humanitarian Award was Governor M. Jodi Rell.

The event could not have happened without the help of our many volunteers from across the organization who gave of their time and talents that evening! Thank you to everyone who pitched in - you played a huge role in our success!!



Look Who's Joined Our Team

We would like to welcome new additions to our team for April:

Sonya D. Alexander, LSI

Alyssa M. Anderson, LSI

Nemy Antenor, LSI

Jautonn E. Boyd, LSI

Kurt Brown, Special Olympics Asst.

Shawn L. Brown, Driver

Debra M. Califia, LSI

Rolando Castro, LSI

Khinnon N. Clarke, LSI

Kevin J. Cohen, LSI

Alexander S. Gentile, LSI

Erika A. Heyliger, LSI

Michael W. Loeven, IT Help Desk

Amanda J. Mahoney, LSI

Wilfred Morales Jr., LSI

Ivan Roman, LSI

Jason Santiago, LSI

Madeline Solla, LSI

Sidney F. Sumler, LSI

Marcia L. Tessier, RA

Jaie L. Vaillancourt, LSI

With diverse backgrounds (including many in the human services field), all of our new hires will be great additions to our organization!

Our Vision For The Future...

Ensuring a successful future for our consumers, families and employees

As an organization, we are committed to growth - serving even more people who need us. One of our biggest areas of growth is in our **Career Development** services. Do you know how much CT Career Development has grown over the past few years?

FY 2007 - **303** individuals served

FY 2008 - **354** individuals served

FY 2009 - **400** individuals served

FY 2010 - **500** individuals served

FY 2011 - as of April, **543** individuals have already received services

We now have 4 different Career Development departments in CT providing vocational services and our team now totals 3 Career Development Coordinators, 18 Employment Specialists, and 2 Life Skills Instructors.

Our service area has seen growth as well. We now provide Career Development services in greater Danbury, Waterbury, Norwalk, Stamford, and Guilford. We even opened a satellite office in Waterbury for 3 of our Employment Specialists due to the growing referrals in that area.

We work with over 7 funding sources...the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB), Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS), Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), the Employment Opportunities Program (EOP), Ticket to Work, Worker's Compensation plus local school systems and individuals who private pay for our services.

Employers Wanted: With our growth comes the need to find even more employers willing to work with us, so please, if you know someone who can connect us to a job, please let your Career Development team know! Contact Kate Travis at x3112.

"Oh My" Employee of the Month -Janelle Fako



Janelle Fako has been a Life Skills Instructor at Saw Mill for one year. She chose to work for Ability Beyond Disability in order to help others realize their dreams. She finds the time she spends with consumers very rewarding and likes that the daily routine is never "routine," but always changing. She said, "I love it here! It's like having a mini-family at work with both the consumers and co-workers."

Her supervisor calls her "a breath of fresh air, with an upbeat demeanor." Janelle not only creates a calm and soothing atmosphere for both the staff and consumers, she also engages the consumers in creative crafts, sing-a-longs and conversations which reduces stress and keeps everyone occupied with activities they enjoy. Janelle "fosters an atmosphere of patience and remains calm under difficult situations and is a dedicated member of the Saw Mill team."

Janelle is a music fan and attends live concerts whenever possible and enjoys all types of music. She would like to enter the nursing field and hopes to move up in the Agency through future participation in Pathways To Excellence and the licensed Practical Nurse Program. We thank Janelle for her hard work; congratulate her for being the "Oh My!" recipient; and wish her well with her future plans at Ability Beyond Disability.

Safety Corner

- Submitted by the Central Health and Safety Committee

We are pleased to announce the creation of a new Work Group to our Central Health and Safety Committee:

- **A – Awareness and Accountability**
- **C – Commitment, Consistency and Communication**
- **E – Education and Enforcement**

The members are currently Robin Westby and Julie Noreika from Ability Beyond Disability, along with Linda Omasta and Paul Palanzo from our Insurance Broker, Rose & Kiernan, Inc. Jayson Dinielli from our Workers Compensation Carrier, Liberty Mutual, will also participate on occasion.

The focus of this committee will be to **increase safety awareness** and to create a culture that is conducive to providing a safe work environment for all.

Some of the specific topics this committee will be focusing on in the months ahead will be **Accident Investigation, Slip and Fall Prevention**, as well as **Fleet Safety**. We look forward to improving upon our current Accident Investigation procedure so that we may better determine the root causes of incidents. Our goal is to conduct root-cause analysis with the information provided from the accident investigation data. The Central Health and Safety Committee can then identify the best preventative measures to take, to provide the safest work environment ever.

The highest frequency of our Work-Related injuries in 2010 stemmed from **Slip and Fall** incidents, accounting for 35.71%. It was the #2 cause in 2009 and the #1 cause in 2008. The combined total incurred (claims) due to **Slip and Fall** claims for the last three years has amounted to \$366,469 to date. We are excited to work toward our goal of reducing **Slip and Fall** incidents, as well as creating a culture where Safety of all staff and consumers is paramount.

We realize that this will be a long-term ongoing effort at Ability Beyond Disability, to help control losses and to continue to provide a safe work environment.



April "Oh My" Award Nominees

Fred Randall - RC, Shepherd Hill & Greenview

Adam Gropper - LSI, Millington

Ana Soto - LSI, Saw Mill

Joe Dobbins - LSI, SIL

May Anniversaries

Deborah Musumeci	24	Binta Active	4
Kim Westmoreland	15	Charmagne Caruso	4
Jennifer Luchetta	14	Sonya Wright	4
Johnie Douglas	14	Kadeish Jackson	4
Maxine Saunders	14	Lynn Roeller	3
Sylvia Morse	13	Janet Schult	3
Patricia Nazzaro	13	Lucy Smith	3
Adama Kabia	10	Jennifer Cleary	3
Bart Mastroianni	10	Juvy Abarientos	3
Clason Reed	9	Amanda Augustine	3
Derwin Porter	9	Andre Laird	3
Verna Bygrave	9	Christine Lopez	3
Nigel DeSouza	9	Sarah Metzger	3
John Serbeh	9	Erica Hopkins	2
Sharon Beaudoin	8	Lloyd Jackson	2
Lakeisha Kinsey	7	Eleni Wojcikowski	1
Melissa Martinez-Zeron	7	Richard McNulty	1
Michelle Weinstein	7	Richard Tibbitts	1
Amanda Hunt	7	Christian Power	1
Yesenia Cuevas	6	Robyn Wicks	1
Leonard Hurgin	6	Nicole D'Aloisio	1
Jose Pabon	6	Dominick DellaValle	1
Maria Sanchez	6	Brett Lapping	1
Dianne Austin	5	Michelle Wade	1
Ann Metzger	5	Jenna O'Connell	1
Derrell Kinsey	5	Lindsey Downing	1
Kelley Maloney	5	Keyndra Lewis	1
Trini Infante	5	Marisa Brown	1
Anna Hulse	4	Carolyn McGarry	1
Ellen Byars	4	Jessica Charres	1
Dominique Goodman	4	Stephanie Foshay	1
Marjorie Marks	4	Keyvin Lewis	1
Gerald Willis	4	Jared Westhaver	1

2010 Years of Service Luncheon

On April 12th we held a luncheon to honor our employees for milestone years of service to the organization. Those employees who reached 35, 20, 15, 10 and 5 years of service to Ability Beyond Disability in 2010 were recognized for their long standing commitment and dedication to the organization. Honorees were served by members of the Employee Appreciation Committee and the Executive Management team.

Congratulations to all of the recipients, and THANK YOU for your years of service!

25 years

Kathleen Healy

Anthony Bamfo
Shannon McClary
Kimberly Davis
Elizabeth Stroud
Nichelle Roy
Rhonda Lee Granja
Renata Cordeiro
Pamela Arturi
Daryl Harris
Barbara White
Michael Micari
Kristine Foss
Holly Troccolla

20 years

Kelly Moody
Laurie Dale
Kim Brown
Diane Strom
Garry Rogers
Geoffrey MacLaren
Richard Teves

15 years

Latoya Hopkins,
John Sikorjak
Marie Caprio
Susan Hancock
Lucia Riviere
Daren Copeland
Susan Sheppard
Genea Murphy

5 years

Bonnie Garry
Susan Kotce
Robin Westby
Priscilla Diaz
Yomaira Medina
Miguel Perez
Robindra Singh
Rebecca Cosgrove
Carrie Cabral
Cynthia Forst
Louie Cordeiro
Mary Loveras
Arlene Vega
Adam Smith
Christina Alleva
Diana Bova
Yesenia Cuevas
Leonard Hurgin
Jose Pabon
Maria Sanchez

10 years

Maxine Coachman
Maryann Estefani
Leoncio Guerrero Jr.
Angela Harris
Zenith Alston
Virginia Bajraktarevic
Mark Marsh
Vivienne Todd
Doris Rodriguez
Patricia Gressel
Mary Hickson
Rosemarie Musolino

BRAVO!

Some noteworthy happenings at Ability Beyond Disability

Congratulations to **Career Development 2**, our Danbury DMHAS vocational team, for an incredibly successful site review! The review consisted of staff interviews, consumer interviews, file audits and site visits at two employers. **Kevin Cooper**, CDC, and his team of Employment Specialists (**Liz Wyatt, Tom Wilkes, Erin Butkovic and Mark Marsh**) were all commended for their excellence. Way to go!

Kim Rivera
Ellen Matteson
Steven Luciano
Kelly Lizauskas
Michelle Medeiros
Margarita Soto
Ana Zdonczyk
Clint Zicari
Vernon Blash
Yolanda Parham
Melba Rivera
Darrien Smith
Kellie Lubinski
Chantel Malloy
Vincent Carmignani
Krystle Gaudiosi
Shaileen Brighton-Ortiz
Gigi DeCarvalho
Theora Kellam
Stephanie Marriott
Maren Milliard
Matthew Hossan
Ana Duffy
Yahaira Rodriguez
Tara Shapiro
Julia Bara
Patricia Ann Foisy
Katherine Cebik
Laura Bernardi
Michael Duggans
Oscar Pesantez
Theresa Hoyt
Randall Baker
Mark Bossone
Deborah Parks

