



connections

Volume 22, Issue 2

www.abilitybeyonddisability.org

March 2011

Inside This Issue

2

Our Vision for the Future
Look Who's Joined Our Team
"Oh My" Award

3

June Anniversaries
Bravo

4

July Anniversaries
Safety Corner

Upcoming Events!

9/26/2011

Ability Beyond Disability Mercedes-Benz Dealer Championship Golf Tournament
**Ridgewood Country Club,
Danbury, CT**

10/09/2011

Two For The Road
**Irvington Town Hall Theatre
Irvington, NY**

Please visit
www.abilitybeyonddisability.org
for more information Upcoming
Events

Meet The Athletes!

The Special Olympics program is a great opportunity for consumers to learn a new sport, have fun and meet new friends! 200 athletes competed with Ability Beyond. Here are some dedicated athletes from the 2011 Summer Games!



Jamal of Maple Ave really likes to win. Jamal is very confident about his athleticism and says, "At practice I look around and know that they don't have anything on me!" Jemal participated in the Softball Toss and Wheelchair Racing this year. Jemal has won gold, silver, and bronze medals and every year he wins something. Jamal says that the exercise he gets from the games really helps him out. Jamal says that it helps him move better in his everyday life and that he's able to walk on his walker because of the stretching and exercise he gets in the games. Great job Jamal!

Mark E. of SIL 507 has competed in the Special Olympics for over 20 years. Mark participates year round in all different events but his favorite is bowling in the winter. In 1985, Mark had the opportunity to compete



in the Special Olympics World Games in Utah, where he won a silver medal. Mark was very excited about this year's games and said that dancing at his birthday party with his girlfriend Ida the Saturday before the games was the best way to get warmed up! "It was extra exercise to get ready" Mark said. This year, Mark participated in the 200 Meter Walk, and the Javelin throw. "I used to do the 100 meter walk," Mark said. "But I was beating everybody so they said I should do the 200 meter walk." Mark feels that participating in Special Olympics is good for his health and that it motivates him to walk and exercise on his own time as well. Mark says that meeting new friends is his favorite part of the games. Way to go Mark!

Lauren of PRC looks forward to competing every season. Lauren competes in the Winter, Summer, Fall, and Holiday Classic and plays soccer, basketball, softball, and bowling. Lauren says that she began playing sports for the first time through Special Olympics. "My favorite part is winning medals and staying in dorms with my friends," says Lauren. Lauren's soccer team won a silver medal this summer! Great job Lauren, you are a dedicated team player!

Look Who's Joined Our Team

We would like to welcome new additions to our team for May/June:

Lesli I Antaneda-Brown, LSI
Amanda L Bachman, LSI
Sanje T Bennett, LSI
Edward Gerald Bingham, LSI
Lateshia D Canada, LSI
Tracy Lee Cavanaugh, LSI
Jessica L Crespo, LSI
Sherese N Darity, LSI
Karen S Davey-Jackson, LSI
Nickesha A Eaton Gordon, LSI
Melissa A Goldbrum, LSI
Willis A Howell, LSI
Matthew L Konowe, LSI
Anna Marie A Lawrence, LSI
Angelese Marrero, LSI
Stefanny Tahia Martinez, LSI
Jasmine L McElmurry, LSI
Sherrie G Murry, LSI
Donnae K Nelson, LSI
Jenny Ortiz, LSI
Jabin Raju, LSI
Regina M Rasmussen, LSI
Isabella M Rodrigues, LSI
Jennifer Rohr, LSI
Gina Teresse Sears, LSI
Sophia Nadine Simpson, LSI
Sharon A Sklar, LSI
Anne C Smith, LSI
Janna K Spitzenberger, LSI
Edith Swiander, LSI
Kevin W Venturini, LSI
Allison E Winget, LSI
Shameeka T Cardona, LSI
Debbie Lisa Garcia, LSI
Brian K Freeney, JR, LSI
Hakim G Harris-Hylton, LSI
Tiara F Harris, LSI
Kelly A Novo, Res Nurse LPN
Tina Ramjattan, Res Nurse LPN

Our Vision For The Future...

Ensuring a successful future for consumers, families and employees

We are expanding our service offerings in Ridgefield, CT with a program model called Continuous Residential Supports (CRS). It is a DDS funded residential program with 24-hour staffing supports developed for the specific needs of two female young adults who are transitioning into adulthood.

The program will provide an opportunity for individuals to build their lives in the community and acquire independent living skills such as cooking, cleaning, shopping, money management, recreation, safety and accessing public transportation and outside resources in the community.

What's different about the CRS model is that it provides flexibility for individuals to combine their resources and create a staffing pattern specific to their unique needs. Support is maximized by the sharing of resources. The interdisciplinary team consists of residential and vocational staff, nursing, and behavioral supports. The living arrangement is rented from a landlord in the community and individuals pay for their own room and board, as well as their rent.

The idea of sharing supports to maximize resources is a cost effective strategy and allows for supports to be customized to individual needs. CRS arrangements can be developed more efficiently with less regulatory requirements than the traditional licensed group home model.

This type of program will help us achieve our vision for the future - allowing us to serve even more people who need us by being as cost efficient and flexible as possible.

"Oh My" Employee of the Month -Jessica Forgione



Jessica is the Assistant Residential Service Coordinator for Supported Independent Living-507 with Ability Beyond Disability. Jessica began as a flex staff LSI with Ability Beyond Disability and has been with the company for eight years.

Jessica says she chose to work for Ability Beyond Disability because she always wanted to work with people. After beginning as an LSI, Jessica received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and says she has remained in the field since.

When asked what Jessica likes most about this career, she says, "The relationships I've made with my consumers and watching them reach their goals. It also feels great knowing I can help make a difference."

Jessica is also a makeup artist for weddings and events.

Congratulations Jessica and thank you for all that you do!

BRAVO!

Some noteworthy happenings at Ability Beyond Disability

In June, Thunderbird SIL received a great DCF Licensure Review! The licensure reviewer was so impressed by Thunderbird that she showed the house to her supervisor!

Also, Old Hawleyville received a citation free DDS licensing inspection led by Karen Hofer and Michelle Alterisio! This was the second site free licensure in Ability Beyond Disability's history.

Compliments/Complaints

Employees may report any compliance concerns confidentially to the Compliance Officer through the use of the Compliments and Complaints Hotline 203.826.3055 or the Compliments and Complaints e-mail group or a written complaint may be filed by the employee with the Compliance Officer or the Board President.



December/January "Oh My" Award Nominees

Tyrone Edmond - Life Skills Instructor

Alanna Licursi-Community Rec Coordinator

Pascual Infante-Residential Coordinator

Patrick Gantert-Centralized Scheduling Supervisor

Paul Cortese-Life Skills Instructor

Dennis Espino-Life Skills Instructor

June Anniversaries

Andrew Green, 25
Heidi Chelednik, 22
Richard Teves, 21
Lori-Jean Ruckel, 19
William Armstrong, 18
Joseph Harding, 18
Barbara Snow, 17
Cynthia Tilles, 17
Lucia Riviere, 16
Charnesa Brandon, 14
Carrie O'Connell, 13
Jane Greer-Fried, 13
Michelle Alterisio, 13
Vonsell Johnson, 13
Marcella Anderson, 13
Patrick Vicale, 12
Patricia Gressel, 11
Cassandra Fowler, 9
Brienne Hill, 9
Eric Crosby-Williams, 8
Thikisha Tallman, 8
Arleen Pabon, 7
Myra Arroyo, 7
Kim Rivera, 6
Ellen Matteson, 6
Nicole Cadovius, 5
Olga Garcia, 5
Ryan Gentile, 5
Anabel Maitland, 5
Casandra Provost, 5
Roseline Charles, 5
Stephanie Almeida, 5
Saverio Mancini, 4
Kendra Majette, 4
Brendan Kehoe, 4
Yvonne Perkins, 3
Harpreet Bains, 3
Sarah Stern, 3
Simon Obas, 3
Giulia Graziani, 3
Kingsley Chioma, 3
Belkis Ossers, 2
Jason Fowler, 2
Paul Cortese, 2
Krystal Rowe-Young, 2
Richard McGeady, 2
Amy Davis, 2
Kaylah McKenzie, 2
Michael Marston, 2
Ronda Fera, 2
Cristine Padovano, 2
Eileen Zerrenner, 1
Rachel Strawson, 1
Jacqueline Perrier, 1
Saidah Abdullah, 1
Carly Bertozzi, 1
Elesia Patten, 1
Alison Miller, 1
Devin Mack, 1
Sharon Jenkinson, 1
Christopher Glahn, 1
Jasmine Gary, 1
Kathleen DaSilva, 1
Amanda Ho-Gutierrez, 1
Michael Carriere, 1

Safety Corner

- Submitted by the Central Health and Safety Committee

Safety of our consumers & staff are of the utmost importance at Ability Beyond Disability. The CHSC & CARF Education Group: "Summer Safety CARF Fun" Tips:

S - Sun Block always apply 15 min before going outside

U - UV Rays wear hats & sunglasses when out in the sun

M - Medical Prevention/Precautions Heat Stress (Stroke, Exhaustion, Cramps and Rashes)

M - Medicine get creams/ointments for Insect Bites & Burns, etc.

E - Environment watch out for Poison Ivy or damage from weather

R - Relaxation do not rush to do anything

S - Shelter stay out of direct sunlight & keep medicines at room temperature

A - Avoid stay away from sweets & carbonated beverages in the hot sun

F - Footwear consider shoes that are appropriate for work vs. play

E - Expiration Dates check on emergency supplies & food

T - Temperatures over 85 degrees F & humidity over 70% pose danger & precautions must taken

Y - YOU protect yourself before you can protect others!

C - Coolers keep cold beverages available to avoid dehydration

A - Activities plan alternate things when weather becomes unsafe

R - Report Unsafe Acts & Conditions when you see anything unsafe at work!

F - Fire Extinguishers check tags & keep handy during BBQs

F - First Aid Supplies keep on hand & fully stocked!

U - Unattended NEVER leave ANYONE or animals in vehicles ALONE under any circumstances!

N - New try something adventurous, keeping in mind SAFETY FIRST!

Stay Safe Everyone!

July Anniversaries

Jane Davis-Bunt, 27	India Baker, 4
Bridget Kopet, 25	Arthur Guertin, 4
Laurie Dale, 21	Cassandra Jimenez, 4
Holly Schultz, 20	Genine Brown, 4
Jeffrey Tomascak, 17	Arisbel Suero, 4
Omondi Odera, 15	Robert Vozza, 4
Mireille Cailleau, 15	Alfonso Robinson, 3
Craig Lynch, 13	Amanda Hernandez, 3
Rajab Masesa, 13	Thomas McKirdy Sr, 3
Kendra Tompkins, 13	Jerniece Herring, 3
Linda Chieffalo, 13	Ibn Davis, 3
Darlene Rivera, 13	Daquan Hester, 3
Todd Rogotzke, 12	Gregg Corbo, 3
Lorraine Ochoa, 12	Rene Martinez, 3
Mary Hickson, 11	Jeffrey Daniels, 3
Rosemarie Musolino, 11	Rina Rodriguez, 3
Anthony Bamfo, 11	Deborah Dillard, 3
Maureen Campbell, 9	David Zoller, 2
George Kovacs, 8	Sharon Bradshaw, 2
Stacy Buchanan-Weeks, 7	Glenna Brown, 2
Susan Kotce, 6	Abigail Thurlow, 2
Kelly Lizauskas, 6	Dwayne Moore, 2
Lisa Levy, 5	Maryann Goodwin, 2
Brian MacCarry, 5	Alisha Mullaney, 2
Christine Shypski, 5	Jessica Clarke, 2
Angelica Loja, 5	Kristin Lede, 2
Michelle Petrie, 5	Dennis Roscoe, 2
Natasha Jones, 5	Lucia Moniz, 1
Paul Ngoru, 5	Latisha Miller, 1
Jennifer Melycher, 5	Eunice Quayson, 1
Joyce Owen, 5	Nicole Kluglein, 1
Jennifer Gleason, 5	James Elander, 1
Patrick Boisvert, 4	Kenneth Weiss, 1
Jennifer Callan, 4	Katharine Voorhees, 1
Michael Buyu, 4	Gabriela Diaz, 1
Rhonda Maye, 4	Robert Gatling, 1
Sade Nixon, 4	Heather Gray-Merrill, 1
Danielle Hundt, 4	Jennifer Santos, 1
Chastity Goris, 4	Emily Goldman, 1
Lourdes Loveras, 4	Chakaria Jackson, 1
Gail Luf, 4	Joshua Owen, 1
Julie Noreika, 4	
Marc Piacentini, 4	
Elizabeth Wyatt, 4	