

Hat HOME

with
Residential



A Newsletter For And About Residents, Families and Staff

January, 2009

BAIR HOME FEATURED ON BG HOME TOUR

For the first time in WLRS, Inc. history, one of our homes was featured in the Women's Club of Bowling Green's Holiday Home Tour on December 6.

Over 100 visitors stopped by for a guided tour of the Greg Bair Home. Residents and staff welcomed each guest and proudly provided personal tours of the home.

The tour was mutually beneficial to WLRS, Inc. and the Women's Club. It was an opportunity to showcase one of our homes and increase awareness about our residential services. In addition, our participation helped the Women's Club raise funds for their outreach efforts. Proceeds are being used for the Women's Club's scholarship fund, domestic violence projects, the BG school creative writing contest, literacy project, and community conservation efforts.



Bob Lawson, Stanley Feitshans and Dave Hernandez give tours of the home.



Dear Friends,

I trust this finds you happy and in good health. December with all the hectic activities always seems the time we reflect upon the previous year and look forward to the coming new year. This past year has been one of both sad and happy moments. Our program has grown and continues to receive many positive survey outcomes from the regulatory oversight required. We continue to maintain a close and effective partnership with the Wood County Board of MR/DD.

WLRS, Inc. continues to give-back to the community. The many staff from our agency as well as the WCBMR/DD should be congratulated for the incredible giving-back each year through the gift-giving assistance provided to families and individuals in Wood County. This giving-back program has been in place for the past 21 years – what an awesome example of the type of individuals employed! While we all share in the economic concerns for the coming year we are most hopeful that we will “weather the storm” due to our quality staff working for the individuals and families we serve.

We look forward to the exciting challenges that await us in 2009. I hope you have a very safe and healthy new year.

Greg Bair
Chief Executive Officer

FAMILY MEMBER ORGANIZES A CHRISTMAS FUND RAISING EFFORT

Excerpts taken from WTVG-TV's "13 Days of Caring" that aired on December 9, 2008.

One man in Bowling Green is on a mission this year to make sure some individuals are not forgotten this holiday season.

Mark McKenzie is an independent contractor in Bowling Green. He's spearheading a grassroots effort to enhance the holidays for some adults living in group homes. McKenzie's older brother, Dan, has lived in Wood Lane group homes since the 70's. McKenzie visits him regularly, but on those visits, he notices many people without any family or friends. "You try to include them when you can when you're there, but I just thought it would be a nice thing for those folks to have somebody get them a gift. So, he placed donation jars at some local businesses to raise money for gifts.

CEO Greg Bair says that every Christmas staff at each home dip into their own pockets or go out of their way to make the holidays special. "They'll take people to their parents' home for some holiday dinners to include them as a family member." But this season, Mr. McKenzie's idea to raise money in the community will help make the holidays even brighter for many residents.

I CAN VOTE!

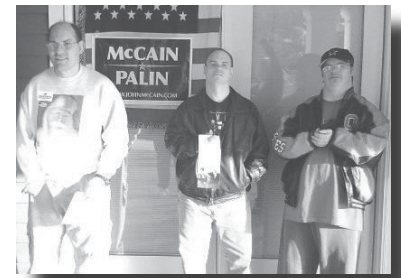
Residents and staff at the Bair home cast their ballots in November's election. The mock election was held at the home.

The Wood County Board of Elections put together a packet of paper ballots and "I Voted" stickers for us to use. Literature and signs about issues and candidates were secured from the Democratic and Republican Headquarters.

Photos of candidates John McCain and Barack Obama were included on each ballot.

On election day, eight residents and three staff cast their ballots for President and other officials. While the election results at the Bair home did not match the nationwide results, it was a great experience for everyone.

A mock election will be held next year and hopefully some individuals will register to vote and be a part of the general election process.



WEB SITE HAS A NEW LOOK

by Debbie Leibig, Associate Director

Wood Lane Residential Services, Inc. teamed up with Sea Lion Studios to look at our website and make upgrades and changes. We compared our current site to other residential agencies. With our vision at the forefront we wanted to make a website that was easy to use, accessible, informative, and inviting.

Our vision statement was redefined to "Making a house a home." Our website includes information on employment opportunities and information that is beneficial to families and care providers. We have also included a link about our services for anyone who may be seeking a residential provider.

Thanks to staff, links include information about the uniqueness of each home as well as its history. These links will be updated on a regular basis to showcase activities that are occurring in each home.

Our website is a great way to use modern technology and to stay connected! Please visit our site at www.woodlaneresidential.org and discover all that Wood Lane Residential Services, Inc. has to offer!

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Elder Haus Fund
Joseph & Judith Conda

Meach Home Fund
Charles Kenneth Culpert

Pickard Home Fund
*Norma Williams in honor of
Margaret Snyder*

Schult Home Fund
Donna Kaetzel
*Roger & Jayne McKenzie on
behalf of Dan McKenzie*

Consumer Vacation Fund
Sharon Morgart
Wood Lane Foundation
"Restle Fund"
Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Lawson
Florence Meach

Consumer General Fund
*Knights of Columbus,
Council #7978*
*Knights of Columbus,
Council #5139*
Anonymous

**In honor of Shelley Germann's
upcoming nuptials**
Donna Utrup
Diana Horstman
Lora Romes

In memory of
Kathy Lambert
Kathryn Crider
Lorain Croll
Donna Lambert
Katherine Rittenhouse
Joyce Asmus
Patricia Newman

In memory of
Francis Fackelman
Mary and Michael Wood

In memory of
Rollie Hampton
Elsie Hampton
In memory of
Stanley T. Gwozdz
*Paulette Gwozdz on behalf of
Flower Hospital Respiratory*

Care Department
MaryEllen Warchol
Barbara Laux
Robert & Bonnie Chromik

In memory of
Carl Friess
Franklin & Jean Potts
Robert Macallister
Jeanne Livingston
Jay & Rita Friess

In memory of
Kenneth Culpert
The Culpert Family
Mary Ann Culpert
Chad & Cheri Culpert

In memory of
Viola Smith
The Family of Viola Smith
Phyllis Dominguez

In memory of
William Heffelfinger
LaQuitta Heffelfinger

In memory of
Arlene Moehlman
Karis and Richard Murphy

Miscellaneous
*The customers at: Grounds
for Thought, North Grove Carry
Out, and The Happy Badger
Trading Portal*

In-kind gifts
Jane Zipperer
Norma Kwiatkowski
Mark Steinbrunner
Huntington National Bank
Edward Joseph Kozdrajski Jr.
Ryan and Lisa Dwornik
*The Happy Badger
Trading Portal*

THANK YOU PARENTS!

The Annual Parents Auxiliary Christmas Party was held on December 14 in the Wood Lane School gymnasium. Residents enjoyed great refreshments and music. And Santa made his annual appearance at the party too! Thank you Parents Auxiliary!



RESIDENTS EAGER TO ENJOY GAZEBO

Residents at Elder Haus I and II are looking forward to spending time next spring in their gazebo. The structure was purchased by Joseph and Judith Conda. The gazebo is very accessible to residents as it sits between the two homes.



AND THE WINNER IS. . .

Another year, another volleyball challenge. For the first time the WCBMR/DD Maintenance Team did not take home the trophy. The Rustlin' Restlers of the Restle Home defeated the Bair Necessities of Pearl Street in a two game play off to win bragging rights.

Also fielding teams this year were the Roadkill Warriors from the WCBMR/DD's Transportation Department (their first appearance in our challenge), the Unusual Incidents of Nichols Home, and the B2 Bombers of Werner Home.

It was fun to see everyone participating. Big Daddy Leady played for the Werner Home and was pitted against his wife, Linda, who played for the Transportation Team. Robert St. Clair had a hand in winning for the Rustlin' Restlers and B2 Bombers had its usual entourage of cheerleaders on the sideline. Alexis and Brian both brought their families to the event.

A bounty of food was available for the cook out following the games. Portage is known for its potlucks and cookouts and this event was no exception.

The trophy, which was stolen from the Fairview building earlier this year (right out from under the watchful eye of Ron Eckel) and sold (as is the tradition) at the silent auction,



Curt Yarger, Rob St. Clair, Darlene Kepling, Lori Allen, Danielle Bunge, Nancy Ponicki, Kelli Cotton, Ann Fletcher, and Cortny Schwartz

was placed on the awards table for spectators to "ooh and ahh" over before and during the games. It came up missing and blame was assigned to just about everyone. Ultimately, well after the games had ended, the trophy was found in the bushes near the Werner Home by the son of a staff member and was given its rightful place at the Restle Home. The Restle Home needs to make sure they hold onto that trophy. Already there are rumors of conniving and sinister plans to steal it back.

All in all, it was a wonderful day of fun and camaraderie by consumers, their families, and staff.

-Linda Brownell, Residential Supervisor

RESIDENT ENJOYS HORSEBACK RIDING



Everyone knows that Jon Werner enjoys trains and visiting train museums. But, did you know that Jon is a horse lover? According to Dwight Miller Family Home Supervisor Andy Swaisgood, Jon is one of a number of residents who participate in the Serenity Farms Therapeutic Riding program each spring. Jon has participated for the last four years. He has learned how to groom the horses and also rides. Stop and ask Jon about Serenity Farms. It is another topic of interest of his!

-Andy Swaisgood, Home Supervisor

HUD APARTMENT UPDATE

Construction of the 14 unit supported living apartment complex is scheduled to begin this spring. The apartments are being funded by HUD 811 grant monies. Residents will receive HUD subsidies. Look for future notifications indicating when applications will be accepted!

Tonia Peters, Finance Director

RESIDENTS SUPPORT TROOPS



Soldiers are receiving Christmas cards from residents this year. Thanks to Melanie Grosjean, a writing campaign was organized and over **500** cards were signed!

We appreciate the efforts of residents and staff to take the time to honor the men and women in our armed forces.



RESIDENTS HELP FIGHT ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE



Residents and staff continue their fight to cure Alzheimer's disease. "We are fighting this horrible disease with all of the effort we have so that we can possibly change the future," stated team captain Shelli Blosser.

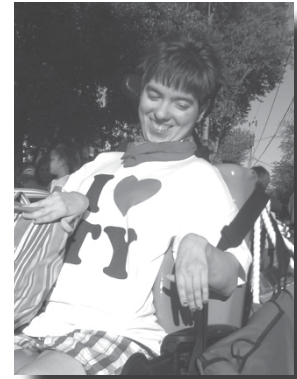
The group participated in its third event at the Toledo Zoo. Team members included Mary Anne Champine, Patty Shisler, Deb Teneyck, Bill Hammer, Carl Hennan, Gary Kazmaier, Deb Layman, Norma Smith, Roxie Cotton, Melissa Marshall, Amy Knauss, Tarla Marovich, Abby Foreman, Steve Doust, Kelly Smith, and Shelli Blosser. In order to participate, the group held a number of fundraising events.

The largest event was a "Ride to Remember Motorcycle Poker Run" that Shelli and her husband organized. A total of \$783.00 was given to the Alzheimer's Association.

"Participating in the memory walk for us means that we are making a difference," stated Shelli Blosser. She added that, "many individuals who receive services are being diagnosed with dementia. This is our way of educating people on the effects it has on the population that we work with."

The group is planning next year's poker run. For more information or to volunteer, contact Blosser at sblosser@woodlaneresidential.org.

RESIDENT HELPS EXTREME MAKEOVER



Yvonne Beaudry participated in Toledo's Extreme Home Makeover in Toledo. After hearing about the "Hope for Haiti" project, Beaudry sent out a request asking for donations of non-perishable food items and school supplies. She and Wood Lane Residential Services, Inc. staff member Amanda Dent then traveled to the Home Make Over event site to personally deliver the items. Yvonne wore an "I Love Ty" shirt in hopes to meet one of her heroes. While she was not able to make those connections, she was very happy to be a part of the event and to help provide needed donations.

ANNUAL NOTICES

Policies and procedures are available in any Wood Lane office to persons being served by the Board, parents, guardians and service providers. The Grievance and Due Process Procedure can be obtained from Cindy Minnick, Program Supervisor.

For information on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or the Civil Rights Act/Rehabilitation Act of Section 504, contact Diane Harvey, Human Resources Manager.

Information on our Asbestos Management Plan for the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), or Health and Safety Compliance can be obtained from Karl Lowell, Health and Safety Coordinator.

Residential Services Waiting List: The process for placement on the Residential Services Waiting List begins with a request from the individual or their parent/guardian.

Completion of a referral form and service needs assessment will then be completed by the individual, IP Team, Service Coordinator, or parent/guardian. For more information, contact Claude Kilpatrick, Service Coordinator/Intake and Eligibility Specialist.

**Wood Lane
Residential Services, Inc.
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Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
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(419) 353-WLRS (9577)**

Greg A. Bair, CEO

**WLRS, Inc., Wood Lane
Residential Properties and
HUD Board Members:**

*Delbert Brown, Tom Clemons,
Julie Carle, Lisa Claybaugh,
Deb Haig, David Miller,
Megan Newlove, Jane Quinn,
Randy Roberts, Harold Rosenberg,
Ted Sipes, Norma Smith,
Tom Votava, Ellen Williams,
and Martha Woelke*

Our Mission:

*We will provide individuals with
the highest quality of life
enhancement opportunities in
residential environments by
respecting individuals,
ensuring choices and options,
supporting families, and providing
community partnerships.*

STAFF ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR BGSU SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are being accepted for the Joseph and Judith Conda Scholarship. BGSU junior and senior students who are WLRS, Inc. or WCBMR/DD staff are eligible. Preference will be given to staff members employed through WLRS, Inc.

Applicants must be enrolled in the Intervention Services (special education) program and have a 3.0 grade point average. One to two scholarships will be awarded. Applications are available from 444 Education Building on campus or by logging on to www.bgsu.edu/colleges/edhd/scholarships/index.html. Application deadline is January 30.

For more information, contact Mark Earley at (419) 372-7401 or earleym@bgsu.edu.



RELAY FOR LIFE ACTIVITIES ARE IN FULL SWING

*The annual Relay for Life is WLRS, Inc.'s
community service project.*

*The 2009 team is now being formed!
There are several events that are planned
in the upcoming months with all
proceeds going directly to the
American Cancer Society that include:*

February 11: Cookie for a Coworker
Send a cookie and a greeting to a coworker.

April 23: Silent Auction
*A list of items will be available prior to the auction.
Contact Linda Brownell, Residential Supervisor for
more information.*

May 7: Planter Day
*Planters and other items will be
available for purchase.*