

HO*at*HOME

with
Residential



A Newsletter For And About Residents, Families, and Staff

July, 2009

FALL EVENT PLANNED TO CELEBRATE 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Mark your calendars! We will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Werner, Restle, and Nichols Homes on September 19th. The event will be held at the Homes in Portage.

A chicken barbecue will be served from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Portage United Methodist Church. Games, live music, and other activities will be held from 12:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Homes.

Thirty years ago the first Wood County group homes opened in Portage and were a welcome alternative for individuals who had lived for most of their lives in institutional or nursing home settings. Since then Wood Lane Residential Services, Inc. has expanded to include 29 homes and one respite home. We also provide drop-in services to 19 individuals living in their own homes.

For more information visit our website at www.woodlaneresidential.org.

We hope to see you on the 19th!

TALENT SHOW FEATURES ACTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Tell Your Story!

As part of our celebration, we are asking families, care providers, staff and others to share recollections of the opening of residential homes and the impact it had on you and your family.

We know that families were instrumental in the closing of institutions and the development of homes within their own county.

Stories can be submitted via e-mail to contact@woodlaneresidential.org, from our website at www.woodlaneresidential.org or by mail to 545 Pearl Street, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.

Help us as we continue to document this important history!

It wasn't around the world in 80 days.
It only took one afternoon through song, dance, and some great acting!

The 13th Annual Talent Show traveled the globe and gave the audience a glimpse of the sights and sounds around the world!

WLRS, Inc. GIVES BACK

\$11,000+ RAISED FOR RELAY FOR LIFE



Thanks to all for a fabulous Relay. Wood Lane Staff, residents, and the community were so generous with their time and donations. We could not have met our goal without everyone's support. I would like to thank each Wood Lane Relay for Life team member who got involved.

We increased team members this year and are so grateful for all your hard work and team support. We raised over \$11,000 this year to help find a cure for cancer!

Cathy Miller, Team Captain



From Greg Bair, CEO

We continue to work with staff to assure the highest quality services are provided. We have been conducting ongoing internal surveys and will continue to develop reportable standards. We are in our second year of our Annual Report Card that is used to "raise the bar" in all areas of service. We have increased our Maintenance Department by hiring Paul Barton as a Maintenance Worker (many of you might know his mother, Georgiana Barton, who worked for the WCBMR/DD for many years) and Mike Aspacher as Painter/Maintenance Worker. We are very excited to bring these two individuals on board and believe you will be seeing the outcomes of their productivity very soon.

By collectively focusing on our mission we will ensure that individuals served receive the highest quality life enhancement opportunities.

So far 2009 has proven to be memorable. We have updated and continue to make changes to our website to reach out to families and the community. We have welcomed new residents into our program and in May a reception was held to honor Charlie Layman for providing custodial services to Portage for many years. The reception was very well attended with many individuals acknowledging Charlie for his 33 years of service to Wood Lane. We all thank you, Charlie!

Plans are under way for a huge celebration on September 19, 2009. We are honored and excited to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of WLRS opening our first group homes. Many individuals have played important roles in the accomplishments we benefit from today. We look forward to reminiscing with the many visitors from the past who will be part of this celebration.

On behalf of the WLRS Board and staff I would like to thank each of you who have given the incredible support to Wood Lane for so many years. We are most fortunate to have many supportive families.

I hope you all have a happy and safe summer!

Kudos!



- ◆ **WLRS, Inc.** was honored by the Northwest Ohio Safety Council for its success to decrease staff injuries. This year the rate decreased by 25%.
- ◆ Thanks to **Roxie Cotton** for her suggestion to change WLRS, Inc. tag line from "Making a House Feel Like A Home" to "Making a House a Home." That's what we do!
- ◆ **Emily Farr** received a compliment from a motorist through the Safety First program. The caller reported: "The driver was being a very courteous driver. In addition, the driver is obeying all traffic rules and showing excellent driving skills."
- ◆ The **Bair Home** passed its first Medicaid Survey with flying colors! The surveyor was extremely complimentary of the staff, residents, and the beautiful home. The Bair Home also received a 3 year license for operation from the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

WAY TO GO GRADUATES!

Congratulations to:

Brad Dingledine - Wood Lane School
Steve Davie - Wood Lane School
Nicole Shoemaker - Wood Lane School
Cory Febrey - Perrysburg High School
Nick Febrey - Perrysburg High School
Jac'Que Carsten - Lake High School
Jessie Fitch - Rossford High School



Steve Davie



Brad Dingledine



Nick Febrey



Cory Febrey



Jessie Fitch



Nicole Shoemaker

Not pictured: *Jac'Que Carsten*

WEBSITE IS DESIGNED TO BE FAMILY FRIENDLY

Our website is designed to be educating, informative, and interesting. In our recent redesign we tried to reach everyone. Part of our mission is to support families. With this in mind part of our focus in designing the website is to focus on what families may need, want, and find useful. The website includes a tab labeled "Families" and under this tab you will find information regarding topics we feel are relevant to families as well as information about the Parent's Auxiliary.

You will also notice an area labeled "NEWS" where you will find information on current and upcoming events as well as "FAQ" where you can find answers to frequently asked questions.

To find a history and current summary of each home, click on "Services" and you will see the opportunity to visit the Residence Page. Each month will feature a different home including upcoming events and interesting facts about that home and if you click on the "Visit the Residence Page" you can view all of the homes and their summary.

I hope you can take the time to browse through the pages of the website at www.woodlaneresidential.org. Please send your comments about the site and suggestions on additional information you would like to see. You can email me at dleibig@woodlaneresidential.org.

Debbie Leibig, Associate Director

Visit our web site at

www.woodlaneresidential.org

STAFF CELEBRATE TIME WITH WLRS, INC.

WLRS is proud of those who have recently celebrated notable years of service.

15 years of service

Kerri Baumgartner - Home Supervisor, Rollie Hampton Home

Brenda Martinez - Assistant Home Supervisor, Bair Home

Laura Peterson - Home Supervisor, Pickard/Evers Homes

Deb Shrode - Home Supervisor, Schult Home

Erica Sleek - Residential Assistant, Bomeli/Walters Homes

Sally Stemen - Recreation Therapist

Jodi Stone - Residential Assistant, Rollie Hampton Home

20 years of service

Marianne Emerson

Marianne started working for WLRS in October 1988 as a Resident Assistant/Case Manager for the Werner Home. She has held many positions since then. She worked as a Habilitation Specialist for WLI then came back to WLRS as a QMRP in 1990. She spent the next 17 years as a QMRP (once even working the combined position as Home Supervisor/QMRP at the Dunn Home). We are proud to have Marianne in the position of QA/MUI Specialist where she is able to benefit all of WLRS with her QA expertise.

Angie Saunders

Angie began working for WLRS as a Residential Assistant at Portage. She continued to work as a Residential Assistant and a Residential Assistant/Case Manager at Semi-Independent and at the 4-Bed Homes for more than 9 years. She then took a position in the 4-Bed Homes as an Assistant Home Supervisor in 1998. Currently Angie is the Assistant Home Supervisor at the Mike Nichols/Kemer Homes.

Dodi Tussing

Dodi began working with WLRS in 1988 as a 3rd shift Residential Assistant at the Portage Homes. Since 1990 we have been fortunate to have Dodi's knowledge and experience put to good use as the Food Services Specialist. She works closely with residents and the dietitian and ensures that the menus and diets are not only healthy, but also enjoyable.

25 years of service

Linda Brownell

Linda's career began as a Residential Assistant at the Portage Homes. She moved into the position of First Shift Supervisor at Portage in June 1984. In September 1987, she was promoted to Home Manager at Portage, then Home Supervisor of the Restle Home in March 1989. In 1992, Linda worked as a Habilitation Specialist at WLI for 3 years then returned to WLRS as a Residential Supervisor in March 1995. WLRS values her insight, creativity, and dedication. Linda's commitment to WLRS, the residents we serve, and their families has helped ensure that we are always "Making a House a Home."

Kelley Pickard

In 1983, Kelley began her career as the Recreation Specialist at WLI. In 1988, she took the position as Habilitation Specialist. Kelley joined WLRS in 1989 as a QMRP and in March 1992 was the Home Supervisor/QMRP at the Restle Home. Kelley joined the management team in August 1992 as Program Coordinator. In 2002, she was given the additional responsibility to serve as the Health Services Coordinator and Kelley has used her skills to oversee the Program Services and

Health Services Departments for the past 7 years. Kelley's experience as QMRP and her vast knowledge of Licensure and Medicaid Rules and Regulations and Nursing Delegation Regulations has made her invaluable to WLRS. WLRS relies on Kelley for guidance and advice to ensure we are providing the best quality of services to all residents.

DRUMMING CIRCLE KEEPS THE BEAT



Bill Griffith and Tim Sielcote

The Drumming Circle held in March drew a great deal of community participation. The sessions were led by members of the Radiance Studio staff. Students and faculty from the BGSU Arts Village provided instruments and participated in the event.

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

In memory of Crystal Spitnale
Lowell and Eileen Spitnale
Pa Da Farms, Inc.

In memory of Ron Wilhelm
Dr. Jack Whittaker

In memory of Rollie Hampton
Elsie Hampton

In memory of Stanley and Josephine Gwozdz
Paulette Gwozdz

In memory of William Heffelfinger
LaQuitta Heffelfinger

General Consumer Fund
Steve Cotner, Corporate Intelligence Consultants
Knights of Columbus
Perrysburg Council #7978

Consumer Vacation Fund
Charles and Mary Lawson

For the Nichols Home
Loretta Bruns

For the Pickard Home
Jay and Rita Friess

Restle Fund for Vacation Fund
Wood Lane Foundation

In-Kind
Chad and Cheri Culpert

MAINTENANCE STAFF HAVE ADDITIONAL HELP THANKS TO RESIDENTS

Since 2005 we have had a Maintenance Program where each Wednesday a resident works with a member of our Maintenance Department for a few hours or sometimes throughout the day depending on their availability.

The program was created in an effort to get residents involved with the department to do what interests them. Schedules are made approximately 4 - 6 months ahead of time and any resident interested in being part of the program may be involved.

Those involved have enjoyed the opportunity! According to Mark Carpenter, Maintenance Supervisor, the residents have the opportunity to go with them to Home Depot to purchase items. Maintenance staff explain to residents what they are purchasing and why, as well as what they are going to do with the item.

The residents are also involved in other "odds and ends" with the department depending on their abilities and interests. For example, they may assist in cleaning a yard or even with small repairs in the home. When repairs occur, residents may even be able to utilize some of the tools Maintenance has on hand.



Jeff Farquharson waters the new tree planted in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry (Gladys) Schult. They were two of the pioneer parents who helped create Wood Lane.

Jess Swaisgood, Home Supervisor at Dave Miller/Hadley, commented on one of the residents who participates in the program: "Tim (Sielscott) has enjoyed this program. I think he likes more than anything the interaction he gets with the Maintenance men. We do not have a lot of male staff who work in our homes. I think that he sees the Maintenance men as buddies."

Melanie Grosjean, Compliance Coordinator

RESIDENT KNOWS HOW TO PLAN FUN PARTIES

The Hadley (Home) Valentine Party was a big success with a nice turnout with Sandridge, Weston, and Dave Miller Homes, and some close friends. We made pizza and salad and everyone enjoyed the delicious meal. We all played Wii. Amber Caldwell and Tracy Cotton created a bingo game. I provided prizes which everyone loved. I think everyone enjoyed the party.

Mark Hayhurst



**Wood Lane
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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.*

CONSUMER ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) CREATES WELCOME HANDBOOK FOR NEW RESIDENTS

The Welcome Handbook is a guide to what individuals can expect once they begin receiving services from Wood Lane Residential Services, Inc.

CAB Board President, Lisa Sipes, explains the need for the handbook, "When I first moved into a Residential home, I was flying by the seat of my pants!"

The handbook includes information on staff, health, transportation, relationships, and how they can help around the house. It also includes a contact page with telephone numbers of the important people they may need to contact.

Fellow Board Member, Jessica



*(top left to right:) Ben Snyder, Norma Smith,
Jessica Rynn, Lisa Sipes; (bottom left to
right): Ruth Creps, Geoff Dennis*

Rynn, added that piecing the book together was "like a jigsaw puzzle." Indeed there were many steps to creating a quality welcome handbook.

The CAB agreed that one of the most important features to assist individuals are the pictures. Lisa mentioned that "taking the pictures around the homes was really fun!" Board Member, Ben Snyder, added that "It was neat to be in some of the pictures."

The Welcome Handbook is a wonderful accomplishment for the CAB and shows that through dedication and teamwork the members of the CAB are welcoming others with open arms!

Joe Hunsaker, Behavior Specialist