

# @ HOME

A Newsletter For and About Residents, Families, and Staff of Wood Lane Residential Services, Inc. September, 2011

## IN THE NEWS

**McVey Home and Ullum Garden Apartments Dedicated**

**Great Seats at the Ball Game**

**Dedicated to Giving Blood and Saving a Life**

**Generous Gifts Support Programs**

## 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.

## FEET ON THE STREET GIVES WLRS A SPACE TO CONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY

The first “Feet on the Street” 5K run/2K walk took flight and exceeded everyone’s expectations not only in fundraising potential but also involving the community in a variety of ways. The event was held in July at the Bowling Green City Park and drew almost 200 people to the park for the event.

Many individuals who receive services, their fami-

lies, staff and Board members participated in the walk or run and/or volunteered. Runners ranging from 7th grade to age 70 were seen on the street during the run. As the runners came to the finish chute, they were welcomed individually by Jerry Anderson (WTOL-TV).

Anderson graciously gave a potential morning of sleeping in to be a part of the day. The Bowling Green Police Department offered excellent assistance during the planning stages as well as traffic control on the day of the event.

Members of the 180th Wing of the Air National Guard also volunteered.

**RUN** cont’d on page 6



Pictured (L to R) Danny Bowen, members of the 180th, and Gene Stokes



## HOME AND NEW APARTMENTS DEDICATED IN HONOR OF DOUG MCVHEY AND NANCY ULLUM



Jennifer Ullum, Don Ullum, and Jacob Ullum

In 1976, Nancy Ullum became a home-based instructor at Wood Lane School. At that time, there was also much action to create residential living opportunities for individuals who were living in developmental centers all over Ohio. Nancy then became employed with WLRS. On May 7, a 14 bedroom apartment complex was named the Nancy Ullum Garden Apartments to honor her legacy of leadership and unwavering advocacy to individuals and their right to receive supports that allowed them to learn and challenged them to succeed as an active member in their community.

See “**DEDICATION**” on back page.

Making a House a Home!



A MESSAGE FROM

# Greg Bair

Hello! I hope you are all enjoying these warm summer days. Before we know it, fall and then winter will be upon us. As always, the last few months have been quite eventful. Here are a few highlights:

In May we had the dedication of the Nancy Ullum Garden Apartments and the Doug McVey Home. This was a very special day and was well attended.

Also in April the Respite Home moved to their new home at Portage.

In July our first 5k Run/2k Walk fundraiser was extremely successful with over 180 participants. We were most thankful to the many individuals who volunteered their time and effort.

The WLRS Recreation Department is going through various changes with the retirement of Sally Stemen.

State Budget - The impact of the State's finances has been less negative than anticipated. As reported by the Director of the Department of Developmental Disabilities we will experience approximately a 2.11% deduction in the biennium. There are various issues, but the system is fortunate in not having more severe cuts. There will be various issues of impact in developmental centers, waivers, individuals waiting for services, and monitoring of efficiency factors.

While there are concerns, we are still in tact and able to proceed with our high quality of services to individuals and families.

We will continue to keep you informed of all of our happenings and future developments. I wish you and your family the best!

Greg Bair, CEO

## Saving Lives . . . One Pint at a Time

The notion of giving back to the community takes many forms including volunteering time to fundraising events and making cash donations to causes. Jacque Carsten, an individual residing in one of our residential facilities and receiving services through the Individual Options Waiver, has made a commitment to help others through blood donation. Jacque is only 20 years old but has already donated several pints of blood through visits to American Red Cross Bloodmobiles.



Jacque first gave when she was 17 and Penta sponsored a blood drive. She has been giving routinely, several times a year, ever since. Jacque explains that "the needle stick is the worst part" for her, but everything else about the donation process is fine. It only takes about 45 minutes.

Being a petite young woman Jacque does have to make sure her weight remains at or above 110 and this is really her only challenge with donor eligibility. She claims never to have had any problems with donating blood and recommends others do it as well. "It's a good thing to do and it saves lives."

Other people who are interested in either donating blood or finding out more about the process can visit the American Red Cross web site. Bloodmobiles are routinely scheduled for the Bowling Green and outlying areas.

### DNR ANNUAL NOTICE

Each year WLRS, Inc. reviews its DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) procedure that allows families/guardians to request a DNR in specific situations. Due to the sensitive nature of this policy, the Board requires an annual notification to all staff, individuals served, parents of minors and legal guardians about the existence of this policy. If you have questions or would like a copy of the policy, contact Kelley Pickard, Program Coordinator at 419-353-9577.

## We thank the following individuals, families, friends, groups, and businesses for their financial or in-kind gifts

Joseph & Judith Conda  
(in memory of Deborah Teneyck)

Herbert Gross  
(in memory of Michael Gross)

Knights of Columbus - Perrysburg Council #7978

Richard & Susan Stokes

Jay & Rita Friess  
(in honor of Margaret Snyder)

Loretta Bruns  
(in honor of Brian Hoodlebrink)

Norm & Anne Abrass  
(in memory of Donald Jezak)

The Mitova Family  
Mee Kish

### In-Kind Gifts

Bonnee Fruth-Sprow

Edward Fiscus

Jack & Melissa Marshall

John Bayer

Sandwich Lawn  
and Landscape

### Nancy Ullum Garden Apartments

Tina Teague

Tom Votava

Greg Bair

Cindy Minnick

### Feet on the Street Sponsors and Supporters

Road ID

Runner's World

Dr. Power and Dr. Wojciechowski  
Easy Street Cafe

Starbucks

Mark S. Desilvio, D.P.M

Ace Hardware Bowling Green

MERCY Lifestar

Blanchard Valley Regional Health Center

Fraternal Order of Eagles

180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard

Deck-Hanneman Funeral Home

ActiveStyle

Toledo Mud Hens..

Toledo Walleye

The Anderson's

Super Suppers

Julie's Dance Studio

Kroger

Walmart

Tara Hubbard Handbags

Jenny Gorkowski Studio

Trinity Poultry

Custom Deco

Libbey Glass

Cleveland Indians

Wood County Hospital

RedStar

OmniCare

Huntington Bank

First Solar, Inc.

GFS



## At Home with the Zipperer Family



### Family shares their story and how they came to discover what was best for their daughter.

After a 26 year military career Bob Zipperer returned to Northwest Ohio for employment and a new home. To minimize the impact of multiples moves, Bob and daughter Lisa moved into an apartment with lawn chairs, a television and a few other household items. Everything else was placed in storage. There they coordinated the search for a job and housing for the entire family.

Then imagine Jane and daughter Robin living with Jane's parents in Spokane, Washington at the same time. The goal is to make one move but securing a job is a priority. They were determined to find an excellent service provider for their daughter Robin. As a career professional in the military, Mr. Zipperer noted that there's a lot of logistics to retire, move and secure a job. Added to that was their commitment to Robin's well-being which made the process even more challenging.

In Spokane, Mrs. Zipperer noted that Robin had some difficulties with school and it was hard on her parents with everyone living under one roof. At the same time Bob was busy with the job hunt and investigating schools for Robin. In the spring of 2007, Robin became a student at Wood Lane School. "When we walked in (to Wood Lane School) we immediately knew this was where she belonged. We still don't know why there are not more places like the School."

At home Robin's needs continued to grow. And the family's ability to cope was decreasing. Robin was easily frustrated by any change in routine and rarely slept more than a few hours at a time. The family thought they would always take care of Robin. "But what was best for her and us meant that we had to give up some control," noted Mrs. Zipperer. "Now it felt like we are a part of a team - Team Robin and to have extra help at home."

Wood County Board of DD Service Coordinators, Angie Blake and Lindsay O'Brien assisted the family to be put on the waiting list for residential services. Robin's name soon moved up the placement list for an ICF

funded home and she moved into her new home on October 30, 2010.

"We were impressed with the homes. They were neat and orderly. While there was a lot of activity going on staff never looked frazzled." Everyone could keep their routine and rhythm. The couple also noticed how staff were aware of each resident's interests and needs.

In order for Robin to move into her new home she needed to go shopping for clothes, furnishings, decorations, etc. Robin's older sister, Lisa, was just the person to take on this role and not only shopped but also decorated Robin's new room at the Schult home. Robin and her family spent time with Home Supervisor, Deb Shrode, and staff setting up the room.

Families naturally worry if they made the right decision. It wasn't long for Mr. and Mrs. Zipperer to witness how the move affected Robin. They have seen such a positive change. As Robin has matured, staff have been able to serve as a mentor and have enabled her to make transitions easily. Instead of wearing a harness when traveling in a van or car, she now uses a regular seatbelt. She's found that swinging is soothing and she and her parents spend time at the BG Park to enjoy this activity together.

Robin now visits her parents at their home. Robin's first visit to her parent's home provided the clearest answer from Robin if the move was the right decision. Mrs. Zipperer noted that Robin walked up to her and took her hand and led her to the door. Since then, that routine has been a weekly venture. Robin doesn't always hold her hand out but the family says she is always eager to get back home to "her place."

When asked how they felt when Robin held her hand out? "Great!" stated Mr. Zipperer, "that's when we knew we made the right decision."

### Party brought extra surprise



Pam Stith wanted to share her birthday with not only her housemates and staff but her coworkers and staff at Wood Lane Industries. There was singing happy birthday, a cake and ice cream, smiles and laughs.

But there was so much more. Her friends loved the party and sharing time with each other outside of work. A family mentioned that this was the first party their loved one had ever been invited to - thank you Pam. You made your special day a special day for everyone!

### Staff say goodbye after 55 years of combined service

We are grateful for the long term and dedicated work of Mark Carpenter and Sally Stemen. They retired this summer.

Mark served as Maintenance Supervisor for WLRs. After 30 years of fixing, constructing, exterminating, decorating, planning, plowing, and overseeing the physical structures and well-being of WLRs facilities he finally turned in his on-call phone to enjoy more time with



his family. And believe it or not, Mark is even busier now that he has retired.

Sally Stemen was our Recreation Therapist for 15 years. Sally is well known for her orchestration of the annual talent show and for coordinating the hundreds of monthly leisure and vacation opportunities to individuals served by WLRs. Her energy and creativity will be hard to match. Sally's retirement plans include traveling and spending time with family.

We miss them both but are happy for them to enjoy retirement!

### Safety Video Being Produced



Resources for training purposes are widely available for staff. However, real life training materials are hard to locate to teach adults with disabilities when it comes to safety issues.

Thanks to Wood Lane Residential's Consumer Advisory Board, a training video is being produced to include various home safety topics. Individuals have taken on specific roles to help write the script, film, and then produce the video.

Recently the Bowling Green Fire Department participated in a session to show how 9-1-1 would respond to a report of smoke in a home. Geoff Dennis and Steve Chamberlin practiced making calls to 9-1-1. The fire department arrived and demonstrated how they would respond to a call.

We appreciate the Fire Department's willingness to help with this project. Residents and staff are excited about debuting their video sometime this fall!



## New Respite Home Opens

The new respite home opened in Portage in April allowing individuals to be served on a short term basis in a home that is accessible and can meet just about every accessibility need. Safety features in the new home include a fire alarm system, a fire suppression system above the stove, a system that regulates water temperature, and security lights.

The home's open floor plan allows for ease of supervision and movement. The bathroom has a walk-in shower and lift equipment to assist individuals with limited mobility to enjoy bathing or showering as safely as possible. A fenced-in side yard with patio, grill, tables and chairs allows individuals to enjoy cookouts and outside games in good weather!

The home has ample storage space and locked areas to assure items such as medication are properly and safely stored.

The home's location in Portage allows for a rural feeling and is in a convenient location to access Enright park, the Slippery Elm Trail, Christ United Methodist Church and Clancy's Corner Carry Out.

Families interested in seeking respite services should contact the Services and Support Administration through the Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

**RUN** (Cont'd from page 1) Results of the run are posted at [www.wlrs.org](http://www.wlrs.org). Here are some highlights we want you to know about residents and staff successes!

Danny Bowen was the first resident to finish. Staff member Kyle Figy spent his weekend off to run with Danny. Gene Stokes and Dave Bushman trained together for the run. Bushman's help with training and pacing Gene during the run enabled Gene to successfully complete his first 5K. Eric Hartz teamed together with his staff Mark Steinbrunner. Eric was the only racer to use a wheelchair for the run and won his age group.

Proceeds from the event will go toward purchasing fencing, furniture, landscaping, and a bike shed for Nancy Ullum Garden Apartments.



Congratulations to David Schult for being recognized by the Wood Lane Industries Board for 45 years of employment! He was interviewed by two TV stations about how much he enjoys working!

## TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!

Nine residents and three staff recently attended the Toledo Mud Hens vs. Indianapolis Indians baseball game. While a trip to the ballpark is a fairly frequent activity in the summer what



Steve Smith

sets this one aside is that the participants were treated to the use of box seats and free parking passes compliments of Brooks Insurance Agency.

Karen Grimm, Home Supervisor of the Walters and Bomeli Homes said, "It was wonderful, we felt like VIPs." The suite provided a comfortable inside setting away from the cold with wonderful food, attentive wait staff and a great view of the game.

They received a special visit from Muddy while at the game. Jessica Swaisgood, Home Supervisor of the Dave Miller and Delbert Brown Homes commented, "It is nice to do business with a company that obviously cares about the individuals we serve." Individuals got to meet and talk with new friends who also attended the game. When it was all said and done the Mud Hens lost this game, but the individuals had a fabulous experience with the dessert cart being a very popular and favorite "perk" of the event.

Thank you, Amanda Geletka, and Brooks Insurance Agency!

## LONGEST SERVING SUPERINTENDENT HAS HOME DEDICATION IN HIS HONOR



It was 1971. Wood Lane School had not been built yet. And at that time, there was no "gym" teacher. Doug McVey, a student at BGSU was hired to be the physical developmental specialist and coach for Special Olympics. He showed leadership qualities as a young professional. In 1976 McVey was named Superintendent and served in that position until 1999. His tenure included the construction of the first three homes in Portage to planning and creating WLRS, Inc. which now supports over 150 people throughout Wood County. The Bobel home was named in his honor at the May 7 dedication for Doug's tireless goal to fulfill family's dreams of residential services. He was also honored for his passion for families and the realization that they were his "boss" on behalf of their children. Thank you, Doug!



Wood Lane Residential Services, Inc.

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## 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  
Martha Woelke

## DEDICATION (from page 1)

Those who knew Nancy have provided intentional reminders of her positive outlook, her belief in everyone's abilities and her never ending challenges to staff, families and individuals served to think "how" and not "can't," "yes" and not "maybe." She also was totally honest in reminding all of us of the responsibilities we have to succeed. As a result, the apartments is another reminder of the evolution of options that people have for community living. Thank you, Nancy.

## ANNUAL NOTICE - Policies and Procedures

All policies and procedures are available to persons being served by WLRS as well as parents, guardians and service providers. They include Grievance and Due Process, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Civil Rights Act/ Rehabilitation Act of Section 504, Asbestos Management Plan for the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) for all buildings and Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) or Health and Safety Compliance. These policies and procedures are available in our office at 545 Pearl Street, Bowling Green, Ohio, 43402.

Making a House a Home!