

CELEBRATIONS

CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

FALL 2008

Fall Bits and Pieces

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On September 12, 2008, CDD held an agency-wide picnic at the Roanoke Community Center. Originally scheduled at a Wyandotte County Lake shelter house, the picnic had to be moved due to the weather but a good time was had by attendees nonetheless. The residents, staff, and friends enjoyed good food, face painting, and lots of great activities. All those in attendance were given grab bags as they left that included lots of candy, as well as bandanas donated by the Harley Davidson Vehicle and Powertrain Operations Plant in Kansas City.



CDD resident, Nicole M., posing with KU mascot, Big Jay

On October 18, 2008, residents from Kinbrook Apartments participated in the Buddy Walk. The walk was a mile in length, and took place in the Arrowhead Stadium parking lot. Residents also enjoyed other activities besides the walk itself, such as getting their faces painted and going down an air slide. They even got their pictures taken with some Kansas City Chiefs football players, K.C. Wolf, and other team mascots from around the Kansas City area!

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In November residents from all homes attended the Ararat Shrine Circus at Kemper Arena. Tickets for this event were graciously donated by the Shriner's organization. Some of the residents' favorite parts of the show included watching the dogs do their tricks, the lion show, and the elephants. Residents at Lafayette Manor group home stated they had never seen an elephant that big before! They also enjoyed purchasing some circus souvenirs before leaving the show too.

As fall comes to an end, residents are eagerly awaiting winter and holiday activities!



Witches, Goblins, and...Tea, Oh My!

On October 25th the ladies of Lafayette Manor hosted an afternoon tea for family and friends. If this conjures up thoughts of the British gentry, scenes from Alice in Wonderland, Victorian décor, and pinky fingers stuck in the air...forget those thoughts. The tea was a vision of Judy M. and Christia C., both residents of Lafayette Manor. While they were the main planners, they met with all of the other ladies to determine the exact fare of the day. They decided on a Halloween Tea since it was scheduled for the end of October. The entire home was decorated with friendly ghosts, goblins, witches, and other Halloween delights, many made by the ladies under the direction of Sheila (one of the staff at Lafayette Manor). The ladies drew a rough draft of what they would like the invitations to look like and a friend of theirs (Erica) created their invitations. Then they strung pumpkin and ghost lights. The tables were all elegantly decorated with black table clothes that hosted glass and silver along with a layer of

painted pumpkins and ghostly centerpieces. Cookies and cake were made by the ladies. Judy's sister Margaret provided everyone with savory, bite size sandwiches. Freda's niece Karen provided everyone with a large selection of herbal teas to choose from. There was also a selection of bruschetta, deviled eggs, fruit, chocolate dipped strawberries and other sweets. The ladies invited their family members (ladies only of course), friends from church, work, and other CDD homes. They entertained and enjoyed the company of 38 people in attendance. As the excitement of the day wound down, if you were within earshot, you could hear the ladies already planning their next tea!



Pumpkins and other ghoulish decorations adorned the tables

CDD EMPLOYEES GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

Employee of the Month Awards

CDD would like to congratulate the most recent recipients of our Employee of the Month Award, Chinetta Coker (October) and Shiela Cross (November).



Chinetta Coker

Chinetta was hired in February of this year, and she immediately jumped enthusiastically into her role as Programmer at Sycamore House. Toisha Nave, Manager of Sycamore House, stated that one of Chinetta's best qualities is that she is a self-starter. When she comes in to work she gets right

to it, taking care of the residents' needs and doing whatever chores need to be done around the house. Toisha appreciates that Chinetta is sincere in the way that she cares for the residents. She always makes sure to ask each resident how their day was, and pays attention to their responses. She even came in on one of her days off last summer to accompany the residents to camp to make sure they had everything they needed and got off okay.

Larry Goodman, one of Chinetta's co-workers, commented that she is very dependable and that she is loved by all of the residents. She pays attention to even the smallest details, especially when it comes to Micheala, the lone female resident of the house. Chinetta makes sure that Micheala always looks her best, styling her hair every other day and painting her nails when necessary. Her upbeat personality helps to ensure a positive aura throughout Sycamore House.

Sheila Cross was hired in November 2006, and was offered a full-time position at Lafayette Manor a month later. She was nominated Employee of the Month because of her outstanding and sustained performance of her assigned duties, and also her willingness to take initiative to accept and carry out additional responsibilities (such as taking the residents on medical appointments, grocery shopping, and learning new medical procedures necessary for the health and well-being of the residents at Lafayette Manor).

Sheila's attendance record is outstanding and she holds a very responsible attitude toward her job duties as she maintains a special rapport with other employees and residents. Sheila is a valued employee and is a good example for fellow employees to follow. Sheila goes about her work in a quiet and unassuming manner and could easily be overlooked because of it. Carmen Jordan, Program Coordinator, appreciates that Sheila never questions why she is asked to do a specific task, but instead dives head first into completing it. Sheila maintains a significant and positive impact on Lafayette Manor and the residents residing there.

Congratulations, Chinetta and Sheila, for your hard work and dedication to the community at each of your group homes! 🏠



Sheila Cross

Fall Employee Anniversaries

1 Year

Loretta Bowler

Melva Kerns

Jamie McMickle

Nora Wynn

Tara Banks

2-5 Years

Charles Besong (2)

Sheila Cross (2)

Tyla Smith (3)

Felicia Jones (3)

EJ Navarrete (4)

6-9 Years

Yvonne Tyler (7)

10+ Years

Carmen Jordan (11)

Loren Albright (12)

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT



On 10/3/08 Tim K. and Cathy E. had a Commitment Ceremony at the Villas. Guests in attendance included Tim's mom, dad, and step-father, Cathy's brother and sister-in-law from North Carolina, case manager Frank Bowerman, friends of the bride and groom from the Kansas City area, and staff from CDD. Tim and Cathy met at their workshop, Blue Valley Industries, around seven years ago. They both ended up moving into CDD's Villas Apartments within a year of each other, which is where their love blossomed.

The ceremony was held outdoors and decorations were provided by Jody Michael, Villas Manager and Marilyn Smith, Villas Lead Programmer. Afterwards the guests all shared numerous toasts, cake and punch with the bride and groom inside the Villas Commons. Food for the wedding was prepared by Marilyn, and the cake was donated by Dina Lester.

We all want to congratulate Cathy and Tim on their Commitment to one another and wish them the very best in the future! 🏠



Tim and Cathy share in cutting the cake!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JIM JOHNSON



Welcome to the Fall edition of CELERATIONS. September greeted us all with troublesome worldwide economic events that may change some things for awhile. It is very safe to say that "change" did not wait for the November 4th election. We can only hope that the newly elected officials, and the tenured ones that we've retained, can successfully work together to restore financial order so urgently needed. By the Winter edition of CELERATIONS in early 2009, we will have some idea how our federal and state elected officials are addressing our economic predicament and how that may affect us all. Though there will

be considerable change on the federal level on January 20th, we will see much less change in Jefferson City. While the Governor's office will change hands, there will be only five changes among our 40 elected officials in the Kansas City region. Many of us are already acquainted with most of the members of the 95th General Assembly. I expect to renew acquaintances and make a few new ones very soon. Stay tuned. Change is already engaging us.

Though we may be bracing ourselves for what awaits us in F.Y. 2009-10, 2008 has been mostly good to this agency and for much of this human service industry. Certainly, there has been challenges, but this newsletter edition will cover the positive and fun activities over the Summer and early Fall. I must again thank the donors who contribute to our Resident Donor Fund. As you know, we use the fund mostly to supplement resident vacations, camping, and recreational trips out of town. Our last trip this year will be to transport six of our residents this month to Joplin to compete in the Special Olympics State Bowling Tournament. Our residents are very privileged to have this benefit from our CELERATION readers. Thank you all. This

certainly makes my job more rewarding. It is greatly appreciated by our staff and case managers who advocate for the residents; and, you need only look at the pictures we take to see what this means to our residents.

The agency is now spreading the word that we will attempt to open our new Summit Apartments in the Spring of 2009. These will be 14 single apartment units designed for semi-independent living. This HUD financed project will also include a two bedroom apartment unit for a live-in staff member. In addition to the many services offered, twenty-four hour oversight will be available. Congregate meals for some residents can be provided until food preparation competencies are developed. We have two group homes within walking distance of the Summit Apartments, and we are thrilled to add this positive new change to the Independence-Plaza neighborhood in northeast Kansas City. Since this newsletter is a handy marketing tool for us, you will notice the new apartment program being mentioned in the next several editions of CELERATIONS. We will be asking our readers to help us spread the word. 

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Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County



Empowering individuals through advocacy and support



Construction Zone!

CDD's new housing project, Summit Apartments, has come a long way since the last newsletter. The walls are up, and most of the bedrooms have been painted; the cabinets and doors have been delivered and are currently being installed; the parking lot is ¼ poured and most of the grading is complete; and the fire sprinkler system has been installed and pressure tested. As you will read in the Executive Director's Letter, the project is expected to be ready for occupation by spring 2009. The agency expects to open this semi-independent apartment program under Level II service funding. In the month of December, we anticipate offering walk-through tours of the facility for funders, Board Members, and other interested parties. Call the Administrative Office (see phone number above) if you are interested in this. 

A view of the back side of Summit



The front entrance, with carport

CDD has two resident openings in our homes. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a resident with our agency, please contact us.

We also have employment opportunities available. If you are a caring, responsible individual who is interested in becoming a part of CDD, please contact us.

CDD is a private, not-for-profit organization. We are designated as tax exempt by the Internal Revenue Service under section 501(c)(3).

All donations to CDD are tax-deductible. We have a restricted account for donors to assist the residents with financial needs. If you wish to contribute, please send your check or money order to:

CDD Donor Account
1010 W 39th Street
Kansas City, MO, 64111

Additional information about the agency will be made available upon request.