

CELEBRATIONS

CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

SUMMER 2008

Summer Fun in the Sun

This summer has been busy as usual for CDD residents. They have been participating in so many events, it has been hard to keep up with them all!

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In May, many residents participated in a fun-filled day at Worlds of Fun. Residents enjoyed all types of rides, including some roller coasters even the staff would not get on! Residents' screams of excitement could be heard around the park throughout the day, as they experienced the twists and turns of the many thrill rides at Worlds of Fun.



Also in May, residents attended a Royals game with tickets donated by the Kansas City Royals Baseball Club. Residents cheered on the baseball team while enjoying some popular ball game snacks, as they won against the Detroit Tigers.



In August, several residents attended the Ethnic Festival here in Kansas City. This provided them the opportunity to learn about over 40 different cultures. Some of the highlights included the large variety of food, and the different dancing acts that performed on the entertainment stages. Some of the residents even got to sample foods from their own cultural backgrounds like Vietnamese for Tommy F., and Italian for James B.

Contributing Writers:

Megan Pence (editor)
Jim Johnson

Also in August, some of the ladies from the Grandview homes and their family members attended a Luncheon at Henry's Antiques and Tea Room in Lee's Summit, Missouri. While there they of course drank tea, ate cake, and socialized with each other. The ladies greatly enjoyed the opportunity to get dressed up and spend time together without any men to interrupt the fun. (And what lady doesn't?)



Throughout the summer, residents from most houses attended various Starlight Theater performances. Some residents attended through tickets donated by Starlight's "Community Ticket Program", and others attended with their ACED classes. Residents really enjoyed themselves, often singing along with some of the songs as they were performed.

Summer activities would not be complete without the annual trip to Camp. Many residents attended one of two camps, Camp MOJA or Friendship Camp. At camp, they get to stay in cabins with other campers, accompanied by a camp staff member. While there they participate in activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, and horseback riding. They also make new friendships, and retain old ones with other campers. The residents look forward to attending camp for months, and then talk about it for weeks afterwards.

Even though summer is winding down, there are still plenty of activities for the residents to participate in this fall, such as our agency-wide picnic, the Renaissance Festival, and the Buddy Walk just to name a few. 

Don't miss our Agency-Wide picnic at Wyandotte County Lake Park, on September 12, 2008!

CDD EMPLOYEES GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

June Employee of the month !!

Marilyn Smith started at CDD working as a full-time programmer at the Villas Apartments in August of 2006. At the beginning of 2008 she was promoted to the Lead Programmer position at the Villas. Jody Michael, House Manager of the Villas, knows she can always depend on Marilyn. She never complains about having to stay late or come in early, and she is always on time. For example, when the Villas recently had a shortage of employees Marilyn stepped up and covered many of the open hours. Jody appreciates Marilyn's attitude towards client interaction. She says, "Marilyn approaches the consumers on an adult level, and is constantly encouraging them to self-advocate. She pushes for them to buy healthy foods when grocery shopping with them, and acts as an advocate for them when it is needed."



The consumers respond to Marilyn's optimistic attitude in a positive way. Whenever they see Marilyn's truck pull up many will come out of their apartments to talk to her. They are confident that she is looking out for their well-being, and even when they do not necessarily like her suggestions, they often do take her advice and benefit from it. At meal times many of the consumers can be found in the Villas commons building with Marilyn, cooking together and eating as a group in a family atmosphere.

Outside of work, Marilyn loves to travel to Oklahoma to visit with the friends and family she left behind after moving to Kansas City. She also likes to fish and spend time with her mother. Marilyn's positive attitude fosters confidence in the Villas residents, and she definitely serves as a role model to other employees. Congratulations to Marilyn for earning the June Employee of the Month award!



Summer Employee Anniversaries

1 Year

- Sargine Alexis
- Connie Bryant
- Colette Shannon
- Thelethia Wilson
- Joy Scultz

2-5 Years

- Karen Harrison (2)
- Kizzy Harrison (2)
- Sharon Anzek (2)
- Misty Carpenter (2)
- Megan Pence (2)
- Marilyn Smith (2)
- Charissa Williams (3)
- Debra Hardin (3)
- Connie Johnson (3)
- Michelle Trezvant (3)
- Borns Andama (4)
- Tina McHudson (4)
- Anissa Tiger (4)
- Gail Chandler (4)
- Melanie Gunderson (4)

6-9 Years

- Willie-Jean Sybert (7)
- June Gates (8)
- Shirley Avery (8)

10+ Years

- Carolyn Quinzy (11)
- Ron Huffman (12)

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT



Shane J., a resident at Kinbrook Apartments, is a very outgoing and friendly person. He loves to make people laugh, especially by making impersonations of actors in movies or television. Connie Johnson, Manager of Kinbrook, says that "Shane is an entertainer and enjoys being the center of attention. He is a constant source of fun around Kinbrook." CDD residents and staff alike get pleasure from being in Shane's presence.

Shane is drawn to all different forms of art, and his favorite activities include drawing and listening to a variety of music. He can often be found drawing pictures for his friends and the staff at CDD. Besides listening to music, he also likes to

make music by strumming on his guitar, or banging on a makeshift drum set (usually made from various items he can find around Kinbrook). Shane also enjoys playing video games on his XBOX. As for activities outside of Kinbrook, Shane enjoys going to church at Abounding Love (a church service for adults with a developmental disability).

Shane has recently completed a series of major endeavors. To start, he just graduated high school from Northwood high school in Kansas City, Missouri. He also was recently recognized by EITAS for a painting that he made in his winter ACED class, and even received a check from the proceeds of the sale of the artwork. Finally, in the beginning of July, Shane began working at a local Target store as a cart attendant. He has adjusted to the job well, working between three to four days a week. Way to go Shane for all of your recent successes!!



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 Resident Update: In the Fall 2007 edition of Celerations we told you about Tim S. receiving his Eagle Scout Award. Just recently, he achieved the rank of Firebuilder in the tribe Mic-o-Say as well. In addition to that, he also participates in the White Shield dance team. What an accomplishment!



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JIM JOHNSON



Greetings again at eight months year-to-date in a year that has been very productive. Except for having to mow our lawns more often, this is the kind of summer many people would like to slow down and have it around a little longer. As you can see on the front page, we have taken advantage of outdoor opportunities with our last summertime event scheduled for September 12th. We expect to feed and entertain 150 people at this year's agency picnic that day. As mentioned in the previous edition of CELEATIONS, we thank our donors at every level for making year-around recreation more frequent, and of a higher quality than many of our residents could afford, enjoy, and have to remember. Our

donor account has financed or subsidize dozens of camperships this summer. Our last out of town trip for the season will be to Branson for seven of our Villas residents. Much credit for this goes to readers of this newsletter. We consider you stakeholders. Thank you.

As also mentioned, this has been a summer of considerable capital investment in our facilities especially at our Lafayette Manor retirement home in Grandview. Remodeling has also included refurbishing parts of our office building. The new additions in Grandview however are the important ones, as it allows our retired residents to age in place much longer than many could have expected to do when we opened the home in 1999.

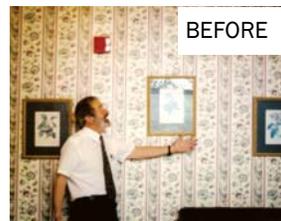
The big story though is our HUD financed apartment project at 9th and Brooklyn, which is just a couple of miles east of downtown. Construction is moving at a fierce pace at this point. These new apartments will eventually house 14 Jackson County residents in a semi-independent setting. Some of the persons who will occupy these new Summit Apartments will be

persons currently living in our group homes, and some will be new people we have yet to meet. To accommodate persons who are ready to occupy and manage individual apartment life themselves, each apartment will have a full kitchen. For those who are ready for their own place, but need food service until they sufficiently develop food preparation skills, we will have congregate dining as part of a commons area, which will be used and shared by all. Within a month, we will be able to safely conduct walk-through tours for persons interested in seeing the project. Right now, hard hats are required for workers and visitors. Hopefully, when you receive the Fall edition of CELEATIONS, we will have an open-house date set for public viewing.

If anyone would like information on our apartment program or services that will be offered at Summit, contact Sarah Mudd or me. If you need leasing or rent subsidy information, we will direct you to the right people for that as well. But for right now, help us spread the word that these will be available for occupancy in early 2009. You will have an update in November. 🏠



Construction at Summit Apartments is taking off!!



BEFORE



AFTER

Out with the old, and in with the new at Lafayette Manor group home



CDD Board of Directors

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Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County



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EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY



Construction Zone!

CDD is, and has been, going through some major construction this year. One of the projects took place at Lafayette Manor in Grandview. A new, more accommodating bathroom was put in that includes a whirlpool bath for therapeutic needs, a roll-in shower, and a nurse/first aid station. Also, a former bedroom was converted into a commons room to be used for meetings and resident recreation. Besides those additions, the wallpaper in the living and dining areas was torn down, and replaced with a fresh coat of paint. The projects took about 5 weeks to complete, and were finished in July 2008. Another construction project that is still under way is the Summit Apartment Complex being built at 9th and Brooklyn in Kansas City. The building will consist of 14 apartment units as well as one live-in staff unit. It is anticipated that 70 percent of the rent for those living at the complex will be subsidized by HUD. Summit Apartments is expected to be completed and opened by January 2009. Pictures of both projects can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.



CDD has one resident opening 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.