

SUMMER 2009

# CELEBRATIONS

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- Megan Sutton (Editor)
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## SUMMER BITS AND PIECES

CDD residents started their summer with a bang on their trip to Worlds of Fun in June. They spent the day experiencing thrill rides and eating amusement park food. By the time they made their way back home both residents and staff were exhausted!

Richard M. and staff fishing



Also in June residents had a picnic outing in Leavenworth, Kansas. Owners of the 80 Acres farm graciously donated their space to CDD for the day. Staff cooked hamburgers and hotdogs, while the residents danced to music on the radio and fished in the stocked ponds.

Other anticipated events this summer were the Starlight musicals. Residents receive donated tickets through Starlight's Community Ticket program every year, and greatly enjoy getting dressed up for a big night out. This year residents attended *Anything Goes* and *Chicago*, and are still awaiting the showing of *Mamma Mia!*

In June, Cedars resident Larry T. put on a musical concert of his own for fellow residents and friends. He has been working on his music skills diligently for the past year, and wanted to show off his abilities by playing his guitar and singing karaoke. Members of other CDD homes came to enjoy the fun, and spent the evening playing various musical instruments and dancing. Cedars staff assisted Larry in making snacks and were very proud of Larry for working so hard to plan the event.



Larry jammin' on his guitar

Residents at Lafayette Manor held a Luau Party over the summer and invited Kinbrook residents to join in on the fun. Staff prepared Hawaiian themed food like fruit kabobs and sweet meatballs, and residents practiced their hula dancing. Residents also learned facts about Hawaiian history, as well as the Hawaiian alphabet and words.



Judy M. enjoying the horses

Lafayette Manor and Kinbrook residents also took advantage of the fair weather we have experienced this summer to get out on the town. They enjoyed a quick dinner and then ventured down to the Country Club Plaza for carriage rides. They had a great time on their rides, and even got to pet the horses afterward.



## SUMMER EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

### 1 Year

Helen Faubion  
Michelle McCann  
Georgette Perkins  
Wendy Tyson  
Rosland Watson  
Patricia White

### 2-5 years

Sargine Blake (2)  
Connie Bryant (2)  
Colette Shannon (2)  
Joy Schultz (2)  
Karen Harrison (3)  
Kizzy Harrison (3)  
Marilyn Smith (3)  
Megan Sutton (3)  
Charissa Williams (4)  
Debra Hardin (4)  
Connie Johnson (4)  
Tina McHudson (5)  
Anissa Tiger (5)  
Gail Chandler (5)  
Melanie Gunderson (5)

### 6-9 Years

Willie Jean Sypert (8)  
June Gates (9)

### 10+ Years

Shirley Avery (10)  
Ron Huffman (13)  
Carolyn Quinzy (14)

## CDD EMPLOYEES GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND



Patrick Ukecha has worked for CDD since 2004, and became full-time at the Villas Apartments in 2006. He is a model employee that shows much enthusiasm for his job and the residents that he cares for. Patrick carries on a variety of duties including assisting residents with laundry, cooking, and developing community safety skills. Residents have grown to count on him at the Villas, not only for emotional support, but also for his companionship and open ear. Jody Michael, Villas Manager, said that, "Patrick's gentle nature and natural caring for humanity shines through his work at the Villas." His gentle nature enables many residents the ability to trust him and treat him as a confidant. One specific resident who is very particular about his laundry allowed Patrick to assist him when no one else could. He is now more independent with this task because of skills that Patrick taught him. From a supervisor's standpoint Patrick is a dream come true. He is dedicated to his work, never calls in, and is never late. Villas QDDP, Angela Carey, states, "He is consistent and dependable, and has a great work ethic." Outside of CDD, Patrick loves spending time with his family and attends church every Sunday. He is a very dedicated family man, and an extremely proud father. He works two jobs and still finds time to balance his personal life and work. Thank you, Patrick, for all that you do for CDD!!

## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Bradley M. is 54 years old and joined CDD in September 1975. Bradley has lived in three different group homes in the past 34 years and has always attended one of the Kansas City sheltered workshops. He is a very competent artist, a sculptor to be more specific. His medium is molding clay. People who see his work are generally amazed with its beauty, exact definition, and detail.

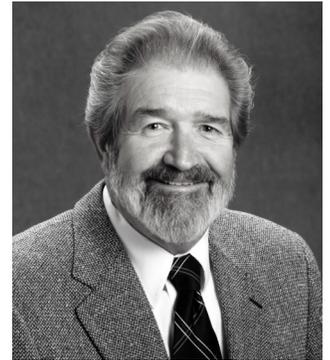


Bradley has lived at Cedars House for the past two decades, but in the last couple of years has taken the initiative to be more independent with household and kitchen chores. Since the agency started building the Summit Apartments in 2008, just one-half block from his home, he started expressing an interest in moving. He wanted his own apartment. This was a surprise to staff, and he continued to gain interest and talked about it frequently. Staff began talking to him more about what it would mean for him to live in an apartment by himself, and Bradley started working on some independent living skills, such as cooking and cleaning.

At the time of his annual Person-Centered Planning meeting in April 2009, his support team included a variety of independent living skills in his Plan. He has done very well with those outcomes. As a result of his success, Bradley began to get more and more excited about moving this summer, and walked to the apartments to check out the progress frequently. Finally, the day came to attend the open house and Bradley selected apartment #1. He spent his first night in his new spacious home on July 31, 2009 and is doing very well.



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Jim Johnson



### **CDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Greetings from a community provider. CELERATIONS readers will recall our updates on the development of our new Summit Apartments over the past year. Well, it opened with its first five residents on August 1st. Unfortunately, this has done nothing to reduce the huge waiting list in Missouri or the Kansas City area. One of the best and simplest explanations of the waiting list challenge is addressed in the June 2009 edition of The Lens, in the section Topic for Discussion. The Lens is a quarterly publication generated by the Developmental Disabilities Services of Jackson County - EITAS. I encourage you to get a copy or look it up on-line at [www.eitas.com](http://www.eitas.com), under the "Newsroom" tab.

appropriating fairly generous case load growth funds to address the waiting list. The \$5.8 million in matching Medicaid Waiver funds is expected to remove 850 from the waiting list this year, though it leaves 3,600 not funded. The case load growth appropriation for this year is targeted to fund persons with the most serious functional limitations such as those with severe behavior disorders, persons who are medically fragile, or emergency placements for persons who become homeless or are unable to be cared for in their current home. CDD does serve persons with medical and behavioral challenges, and we are considering those referrals on a daily basis for our group home openings. Though the Summit Apartments could be considered for some emergency placements, it was designed to serve the middle range of persons on the waiting list, which is the largest number of persons seeking services. Persons seeking semi-independent living services are mostly not eligible to access this year's funding. Thus, the Summit Apartments have nine empty rooms long after the U.S. Dept. of HUD generously spent \$1.8 million on the building to expand community services.

institutions, but instead of choosing to further address the remaining 3,600 on the waiting list, the governor and legislature have chosen to put \$18 million of state general revenues funds into capital improvements for a very old state institution in St. Louis. These expenditures are to assure the continued services for only 130 people living at the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center, whose parents and stakeholders will not allow the residents to be served by community providers. One can easily speculate that \$18 million put into community services could eliminate the waiting list altogether. Though I have mostly praise for our state elected officials in recent years, this is a very poor use of state revenue in a year of revenue shortages due to the slow state and national economy.

So to fill our remaining nine empty rooms, we will continue to advertise their availability. For persons currently funded by DMH who want a new apartment, consider calling us for a tour, and we will show you the comfortable advantages we have available.

In all of my 33 years in this field, I've been involved in reducing the need for state

The Summit Apartments is the seventh residential facility proudly developed by CDD in the 26 years I have had the privilege of being Executive Director. In the past, we have had referrals identified and ready to move in long before our facilities opened. In this case, CDD has not received even one referral from the Dept. of Mental Health (DMH) for this lovely apartment program.

As just referenced, the EITAS publication explains that our governor and the state legislature treated community services well by

### **IN MEMORIUM**

**06/03/57—08/02/09**



On August 2, 2009, former resident Henry S. passed away. Henry lived at Penn House, Villas Apartments, and Lafayette Manor during his time with us. He was a member of the Boy Scouts and competed in the Special Olympics in bowling, swimming, and track and field. He also loved to fish and was a huge Elvis fan, even winning third place in the Kansas City Elvis parade for his costume. Henry will be missed by all of those who knew him.

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DISABLED**

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Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County



## Special Olympics Volleyball

Two residents of CDD have made the Special Olympics National Volleyball Team. David J. and Joe R. reside at the Villas Apartments and will be competing at the 2010 Special Olympics national games in Lincoln, Nebraska



Joe R.

next July. They were spotted by a national scout at their Special Olympics camp in Mexico, Missouri this past July and were chosen because of their positive attitudes and dedication to teamwork. David has been playing volleyball for four years, and also loves playing flag football, softball, and bowling. He works at Goodwill Industries and spends his free time playing sports and video games. Joe has been playing volleyball for eight years. He also works at Goodwill Industries and spends his time playing sports and watching movies. Congratulations David and Joe, and we will be awaiting your victory in Nebraska next summer!!



David J.

CDD has sixteen resident openings in our homes. We are also now taking applications for our new complex, Summit Apartments, which opened August 1, 2009. 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**

**OR Log on to our website at [www.cddkc.org](http://www.cddkc.org)**

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