

Fall 2011

CELEBRATIONS

FALL BITS AND PIECES

Inside this issue:

Resident Travels	1
Resident Activities	2
Staff Anniversaries	2
CDD Renovations	2
Executive Director	3
Board Members	3
Resident Picnic	3
Talent Show	4

Contributing Writers

- Kelsey Brazelton (Editor)
- Jim Johnson
- Shaun Powers
- Jody Michael

Long-awaited Meeting

Margie O. meets her daughter for the first time in 20 years

When most women find out they're pregnant, they jump for joy and are willing to take on life's challenge of raising a child. Well, most women aren't in Margie O's situation.

Nearly twenty years ago Margie found out she was pregnant. She was a young woman, unemployed and single. She was faced with making one of the hardest decisions of her life. Would she be able to raise a child on her own? Margie did not make the choice of giving up her daughter lightly. She felt that as a young, unwed and unemployed mother that she could not provide all the opportunities for her child that she could possibly have with an adoptive family. Before she made the choice to give her baby up, Margie named her daughter Toni Dawn. Toni was born a happy healthy baby and soon moved in with her adoptive family.

Throughout the years, Margie was always aware that Toni was out in the world somewhere. She never forgot her birthday, and she would make her a birthday cake every year and spend the day looking at photos of her, even singing happy birthday to her. Every holiday she would make Toni a card and get her a gift, tuck them in a box she kept in her closet in hopes of one day meeting her and giving her the gifts and cards she collected. Margie would talk about Toni every year at her Annual Plan Meeting. Reminding the people who work closely with her how old Toni was and the desire she still had to meet her one day.

In Aug. 2011 that desire came closer to becoming a reality. Toni contacted, Alexa Summit, a friend of Margie's at the Clay County Administrators Office, and asked her if there was any way she could meet her birth mother. There was no question Toni's request could happen as soon as she wished. Alexa called Jody at the CDD office and told her the good news. Jody called Margie and asked her how she would feel if she could meet her daughter. Margie was so excited she could hardly believe that it was really going to happen. Margie then showed Jody a scrapbook that she had put together through the years to give to Toni if and when she was able to meet her. Margie was encouraged to give the scrapbook to Toni on the day they met.

On September 2, 2011 Jody and Margie drove to the Clay County Public Administrator's Office to meet with Toni. They arrived before the meeting time and were asked to wait with Alexa in an office. The ten-minute wait took what seemed like a lifetime. The room grew silent when it was announced that Toni was in the building, the excitement and nervousness from Margie could be felt a million miles away.

When Toni walked into the room for the first time there was no doubt that she was Margie's daughter. They immediately hugged each other and the meeting brought tears to everyone's eyes. Toni and Margie were given some time to talk and get to know each other. They were then joined by Alexa, Jody and Debra Guinn, Clay County Public Administrator, who helped reunite the two of them and who has known Margie for the past twenty years. It turns out that not only did Margie make Toni a scrapbook, but Toni had made one for Margie. Together they looked over the picture and letters they had written to each other and placed in the scrapbooks.

Toni got a chance to ask Margie about her grandparents, her father and other family members. Margie gave Toni all the answers she asked for. One thing Toni never understood was where her desire for art came from. Toni loves arts and crafts and plans on going to Europe with her fiancé to study art. She reported that nobody in her family really seemed interested in art. It turns out Margie is a huge art fan and spends much of her time working on arts and crafts projects.

As the meeting came to a close, Margie and Toni exchanging Facebook profiles so that they could keep in touch and hopefully form a friendship that will last a lifetime.



Margie of The Villas and her daughter Toni pose as they meet for the first time. The meeting came 20 years after Margie gave Toni up for adoption.



FALL EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

1 Year

Amy Morgan-Collins

Iona Turner

Lindsey Waddell

Larrell Mosby

Jeanetta Woods

2-5 years

Kelsey Brazelton (2)

Joann Strother (2)

Sherry Dean (2)

Lillie Williams (3)

Henrietta Carter (3)

Loretta Bowler (4)

Jamie McMickle (4)

Nora Wynn (4)

6-9 Years

Tyla Smith (6)

Feleccia Jones (6)

EJ Navarrete (7)

10+ Years

Carmen Jordan (14)

Loren Albright (15)

Doris McGowin (15)

Jim Johnson (28)

CDD RENOVATIONS

Improvements CDD renovates several houses

Over the past three years, CDD has completed numerous remodeling projects intended to improve the lives of the individuals served. These projects have included several remodeled kitchens and bathrooms, a new therapy room, new flooring, new heating and air components, new roofs and more.

Some of the more impactful projects were the remodeling of several kitchens. Cedars House, Kinbrook Apartments, Villas Apartments and Lafayette Manor have all undergone recent kitchen remodels. These improvements have made a big difference in the ability of staff to serve the residents. This is especially true at Kinbrook and the Villas where the common area kitchens were not adequate to provide the food services now needed. Residents at these locations have kitchens in their apartments, but often need assistance with meal preparation. The remodeled kitchens give the staff a better facility to work with.

CDD prides itself in keeping its properties well maintained for the comfort and enjoyment of its residents. The agency's success in achieving this is in part due to its excellent maintenance staff.

Tom Rosenberger and Loren Albright are experienced and talented employees who bring diverse skills to CDD. Not only do they provide all the required, rou-

tine maintenance and repairs at the agency's nine locations, but they also provide a significant amount of labor towards the remodeling projects. This reduces the overall cost, allowing CDD to do more with the limited resources available.

It is also important to recognize the partners that made these remodeling projects possible. Without funding from the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development, Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County—eitas and the Missouri Department of Mental Health's Division of Developmental Disabilities, these projects would not have been possible.

CDD continually plans for future capital improvements to meet the needs of its residents and keep the properties well maintained.



The after picture of Lafayette Manor's kitchen remodel. Several locations had renovations completed in the last few years.

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES

Spatial Adventures Residents head to Cosmosphere

In early September several residents from Villas and Summit Apts. went on a vacation to Wichita, Kan. Why Wichita, Kan., one would ask?

At the beginning of the year several residents started thinking about places they wanted to go and things they wanted to see. There were several people who wanted to go to Branson, Mo., and some who wanted to go to St. Louis. Then there was one resident who wanted to go to the Space Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, Kan. Every month the residents would discuss where they wanted to go for their vacation. The fairest way the residents felt they could all come to a compromise was to have a presentation on each desired destination. It would be like a vacation package given at every Resident meeting, and to vote on the presentations.

One-by-one each individual presented the "vacation packages" to his/her peers. The packages included the cost of meals, rooms, tickets to various events and the length of time and miles it would take to get to their vacation hot spot. The package chosen was the "Kansas Package."

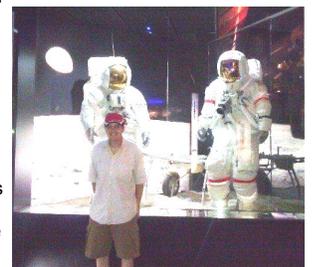
The "Kansas Package" included a trip to the Kansas State Fair and the Space Cosmosphere. However, while planning the vacation the individuals realized that motel rooms in Hutchinson during the time of the State Fair were out of their price range. They found that Wichita motel rooms were half the price. This option fit the bill.

Off they went for a three-day, two-night trip. Their first stop after a beautiful drive through the Flint Hills of Kansas (Psssstt...everyone but the driver slept through that part of the vacation), was Wichita. The group enjoyed a great meal

at the Siroloin Stockade and then settled in for the evening to watch the Royals game - Kansas City was still in our hearts.

The next morning they took off for the Space Cosmosphere. Everyone was excited to see all of the original artifacts from NASA, which included actual space gear and equipment from the very first space flight by an American. However, there were many more hidden treasures in the museum, such as two pieces of the Berlin Wall and also a section of the museum dedicated to President John F. Kennedy. The highlight of the museum was that everyone was able to sit in an actual ejection seat from the space shuttle. They were able to buckle themselves in and experience how it would feel to be in a space shuttle seat.

The afternoon was spent at the Kansas State Fair. Several residents participated in a health screening. They were able to see how honey is produced with a demonstration of a real bee hive while it was being cultivated. They got to taste the honey too. The Midway games were fun and several residents brought home prized gifts from the State Fair. Everyone had a really good time.



David W. of Summit Apts. stands in front of the space suits at the Space Cosmosphere in Kansas. Residents from Summit and Villas took the trip.

The crew then settled back in the motel in Wichita to get a good night's rest. They then headed home to Kansas City, Mo., to plan their 2012 vacation.



CDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

James Breed

Vice President

Steve Troester

Treasurer

Rudy Arredondo

Secretary

Betty Krah

Executive Director

Jim Johnson

Members

Anika Hickman

Mark Arnesman

Nancy Huerta

Peter Frick

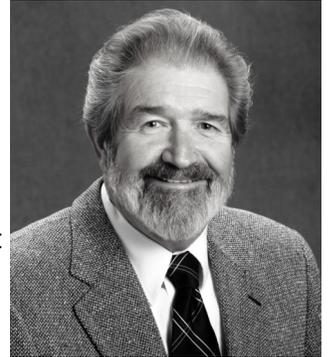
Jerry Wheeler

**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jim Johnson**

Greetings. In addition to our front page human interest story, this edition of CELERATIONS is a wrap-up of the late summer and autumn activities. It has been a lovely and late fair weather season for outdoor and travel activities. Our Donor Account Fund was sufficient this year to fully fund many of our resident summer camp expenses, and to supplement vacations and small group travel. With few exceptions, our donations for resident recreation comes from those of you who receive this publication. Again, we truly appreciate our reader's support.

Due to the number of feature stories, I will be brief with my comments this time. Let me call your attention, however, to the front page story. This is a story that could warm anyone's heart. Take time to read it as it is about a reunion that will continue to re-

occur throughout the life of this mother, a Villas Apartment resident who we have all come to enjoy and appreciate.



So, briefly commenting on the close of 2011, I am pleased to report it has been a much more productive year than the previous two and we are feeling optimistic going into 2012. We are approaching full capacity for the first time in at least three years and are now formulating plans to expand services, and service locations in 2012-13. You can expect to read about it in future editions of CELERATIONS. Happy holidays to all.

Resident Picnic

Residents and Staff enjoy a fun-filled day at Loose Park

Without a cloud in the sky, the sun shined, residents threw a Frisbee and played Hillbilly Golf in the courtyard of the Loose Park Pavilion while music filled the air on the September afternoon.

The residents played Horse Shoes and other board games while the smell of hotdogs and hamburgers lingered through the air as it was a sign summer would come to an end, but not before the Resident Picnic took place.

The Pavilion served as the location for the 2011 Resident Picnic. The weather cooperated and the residents were able to get a break from working at the workshops and day programs. They got a chance to spend an afternoon at the park.

Food included hotdogs, hamburgers, potato salad and much more. Everyone got their fair share of food, as only scrapings were left in the pans at the end of the day.

As the afternoon went on, several competitive games of Checkers were played as well as Candy Land and other board games.

Several Villas' and Summit residents played rounds of Ladder Ball trying to outscore one another each time. Managers, Facilitators and Lead Programming staff all got in on the action of the fun and games; each getting beat in a few games.

When all was said and done, the residents and staff headed back to their respective houses and got a good nap in, just in time to finish out the last few days of summer.



As Krystyna of the Villas gets her face painted, Paul, Margie and Nicole wait patiently for their turn. Face painting was a popular activity.



Pam of Cedars gives her staff Georgett some pointers on how to win at Checkers. Games like Candy Land and Horse Shoes were played too.



Our Mission: To Support Persons with Disabilities in Achieving their Fullest Potential

**CENTER FOR
DEVELOPMENTALLY
DISABLED**

**1010 W 39th Street
Kansas City, Missouri
64111**

**Phone: 816-531-0045
Fax: 816-756-5612
E-mail: info@cddkc.org
www.cddkc.org**



Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County



Talent Show

Residents showcase their talent

Chaos ensued as residents and staff raced around getting set-up for the talented acts that took place on October 21. Pumpkins, multi-colored leaves and scarecrows created a fall-like atmosphere in the gymnasium for the event. As the DJ arrived, he set up his large music speakers to accompany the residents so they could showcase their talents.

As the show began, Jaron of Summit started it all off as the emcee of the evening and welcomed the guests to the show. Acts from nearly every home included singing, dancing, telling jokes, playing guitar and much more. It all took place on the Roanoke Community Center stage for family, friends, residents and staff to be entertained.

Residents danced to songs such as Beyonce's "To the Left," Michael Jackson's "Beat It" and several houses did line dances and involved the audience members for participation.

The evening came to a close with awards given to every home for their outstanding participation and encouragement for everyone involved.



Theron of Cedars House keeps the audience laughing with his jokes. He and many other residents showed off their talents throughout the night.

CDD has resident openings in our apartments and group homes. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a resident with our agency, 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, travel and recreation. If you wish to contribute, please send your check or money order to:

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

Log on to our Web site at www.cddkc.org to check us out.

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