

Spring 2012

CELERATIONS

SPRING BITS AND PIECES

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eitas Awards Dinner

One resident wins the Lifetime Achievement Award

Each spring Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County—eitas holds a dinner for its Board and the community members it serves. Many of the individuals they serve live at CDD. The event this year was held April 26, 2012 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Independence, Mo.

Prior to the event, nominees were selected for several awards throughout the evening. CDD landed three nods for two staff and one resident. Terri Slaton was nominated for Direct Support Professional of the Year and Erica Dixon, Manager at Lafayette Manor, was nominated for Humanitarian of the Year. Though they didn't win their respective awards, they are both highly regarded employees and continue to support the residents. Congratulations Terri and Erica on your nominations.

One person who did receive an award was a Villas resident you might be familiar with. In the Fall 2011 edition of the Celerations, you may remember reading about a CDD individual at the Villas named Margie Olson. Margie was reunited with her daughter whom she dreamed of meeting for 20 years. Margie was a young struggling mother when her daughter was born. She made a very brave decision to give her up for adoption, in order for her daughter to have a better life than she had at the time.

2011 to 2012 was a very successful year for Margie. In addition to meeting her daughter she had two other lifetime goals she started to work on.

Margie has always dreamed of getting a GED so she could continue her education. Margie completed a course in GED studies and has started the process of taking the test in order to be awarded her GED certificate.

Margie has taken it upon herself to teach people in the community about healthy lifestyle changes through a program called Let's Be Healthy. She shares information about men's and women's mental and physical health with participants who attend her presentation. Topics range from, what questions to ask your doctor, to everyday choices a person makes regarding his/her diet and ways to manage stress.

At this year's eitas Awards Dinner, Margie was recognized for all of these achievements and was honored to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. We at CDD are very proud of Margie and wish her the best of luck in all her lifetime goals!



Paula Smith, an eitas Board Member, poses with Margie Olson at the eitas Awards Dinner. Margie received the Lifetime Achievement Award for her personal and community achievements.



WINTER EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

1 Year

- Courtney Jones
- Laverne Dailey
- Ecstahsi Abraham
- Rochelle Wilson
- Cissy Kocourek

2-5 years

- Zoritha McNeal (2)
- Tashai Davis (2)
- Brian Rhodes (2)
- Neeta Rajkanan (4)

6-9 Years

- Arthur Mourning (6)
- Patrick Ukecha (8)

10+ Years

- Jody Michael (10)
- Regina Mann (10)
- Sarah Mudd (16)
- Jenny Kemp (22)

RESIDENT DEATH

**Loss at Elms House
Thomas Ross of Elms House
passes away**

Thomas Anthony Ross, 58, of Elms House passed away March 28, 2012. We have printed much of the program from the funeral below.

Tom loved everyone he met and few could resist loving him in return. He lived life joyfully. He was once innocent and mischievous, gentle but determined, trusting but wary, and always passionate. He will forever be the little brother to his 10 siblings who loved him dearly and will miss him greatly.

Thomas was preceded in death by both his parents, John and Dorothy Ross and one sister Marguerite Whiteside Ross. He leaves his nine siblings, Sister Marilyn Ross, RSM, John Michael and wife Loretta, Teresa Henninger, Stephen and wife Janet, Terence Ross, Capt. Timothy

Ross (Ret.) and wife Tracy, David Ross and Kathleen Ross. Tom had numerous nieces and nephews who were all an important part of Tom's Life. Tom had special caregivers who loved him and took care of him for more than 15 years, in particular Brenda at Elms House and Angela at ICAN were an important part of Tom's Life. Tom had a truly wonderful and fulfilled life enriched by all of the care givers at Elms House and a special fondness for his favorite barber, Joe.

Although the family can never adequately express our gratitude, special thanks is given to all the staff at Elms House and the Emergency Room care staff at Truman Medical Center for their compassionate and honest care of our brother.



RESIDENT EXCURSIONS

**St. Louis Bound
Lafayette and Birch residents
spend a weekend in St. Louis**

Judy Madison, who lives at Lafayette Manor, dreamed about a trip to St. Louis for a while. This May her dream finally came true and she was able to bring some friends with her. Judy and her housemate, Jane, along with Joey of Birch House left Kansas City and headed east. The group was accompanied by staff members Jenna Sims and Tyla Smith, who helped guide them along their memorable trip.

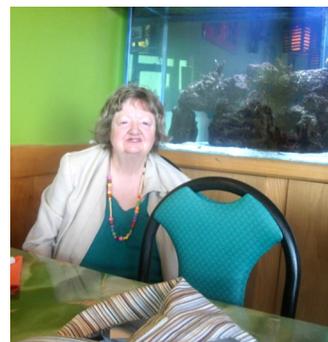
When the group arrived, they went on a shopping spree and bought some new clothes, DVDs and souvenirs. They ate dinner and then turned in for the evening. The next day they took a train ride around the St. Louis Zoo and rode through tunnels and luscious flower gardens while they looked at the various animals.

After their long day at the zoo, they ate lunch on the Tom Sawyer Steamboat which took them up and down the Mississippi River and by the St. Louis Arch. After their boat ride, the ladies were treated to some much-needed pampering and came out

with two sets of colorful nails.

After a fun-filled weekend of going to the zoo and looking at gardens and shopping, the residents hopped in the van and headed home.

On the way back, they stopped in Columbia, Mo., to eat at Lee's Chicken and then headed back to Kansas City. When the group arrived home, they were very excited to tell their housemates and staff about their adventures and show off their souvenirs. They can't wait to plan their trip for next year.



Judy, of Lafayette Manor, waits for her food at a restaurant in St. Louis. She was joined by her housemate Jane and Joey of Birch House for a weekend trip.



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Tom Ross, of Elms House, lived with CDD for 15 years. He was a beloved resident and will be missed. Tom passed away on March 28, 2012, he was 58.

**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jim Johnson**

Greetings. In this Spring edition of CELERATIONS, I can report that business has been just as enjoyable as the weather. It's been a great 2012 thus far for many of us at CDD. With all the summer-like weather, dozens of our residents are signing up for camps and planning their summertime recreation and travel. We very much appreciate contributions made by our readers toward funding these activities. Recreation and avocational activities are shared in each edition of CELERATIONS.

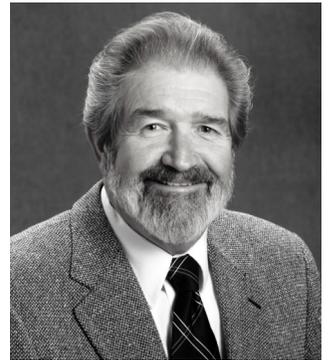
The second session of the 96th General Assembly was adjourned on May 18th. In the first session, sufficient funding was appropriated to move many people seeking services from the waiting list, and community providers escaped any cuts in service rates. In the second session, appropriations are expected to be sufficient enough to move another 1,395 people off the wait list. Also, the Governor has pledged that any funding "withholds" will not affect DMH contract providers. As "raucous and combative" as these two sessions have been, community providers have been treated fairly well, in spite of the budget deficits faced in both session. This industry continues to make its case in Jefferson City for needed funds. We do a good job of educating legislators and communicating effectively with the leadership in the House and Senate.

CDD has had one sad event this spring quarter. An Elms group home resident since 1997, suddenly became ill in the early hours of March 28th. He was trans-

ported to the hospital when he became unresponsive. We are sad to report that Thomas Ross, age 58, died later that day

of natural causes. Thomas was from a very large and supportive family who regularly demonstrated their affection for him and also demonstrated their support for the residents of the home. Family members have been regular and generous contributors to the Elms House program. After visiting the home for an afternoon cookout following the memorial service for Thomas, the family asked if they could assist us in expanding the size of the home's patio. The family and friends of Thomas Ross paid for our new patio enlargement. We are very grateful. CDD will be placing a commemorative plaque on the patio in honor of the Ross family and their brother Thomas.

The agency is expecting another productive year and I think you will see some program expansion. We are quite optimistic, but we will report our new plans as they become outcomes. Most CELERATIONS readers will receive our Annual Report in June 2012 and you can read further on why I am feeling optimistic.





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

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Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County



Empowering individuals through advocacy and support

Karaoke Tunes

Staff and residents at Birch House sing karaoke every week

The men who live at Birch House enjoy singing karaoke at Fun House Pizza every Friday night in Raytown. At 7 p.m., you can find them among other Kansas City locals pouring their hearts into various generations of tunes on stage.

The outing has become routine for the men. Lead Programmer, Omar Hameed, affectionately dubbed "Velvet," can be found singing karaoke and treating the audience to a rendition of what he calls, "old school R & B."

A couple of his favorites to sing are "Under the Boardwalk" by The Drifters and "What You Won't Do for Love" by Bobby Caldwell.

Accompanied by several men who live at Birch House, Hameed puts on a crowd pleasing show and captures the audience's approval.

If you are looking for an entertaining show, check out Omar and his Rat Pack at Fun House Pizza on Fridays.



Omar sings one of his "old school R & B" tunes for the audience. He and the men at Birch House frequent Fun House Pizza on Friday nights.

CDD frequently 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
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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.