

Spring 2013

CELEBRATIONS

SPRING BITS AND PIECES

Eitas Board Dinner

One Staff person was recognized for his Gentle Teaching abilities

Inside this issue:

Eitas Board Dinner	1
Above and Beyond Staff	2
Staff Anniversaries	2
Sandy to the Rescue	2
Executive Director	3
Board Members	3
Staff Kudos	4

Each year eitas holds a dinner to recognize its Board of Directors as well as persons served and staff of Jackson County agencies. This year the event was April 23rd. At the dinner, eitas hands out awards to staff and individuals who show excellence in their life and work. One award that made its debut was the John McGee Gentle Teaching Award. CDD felt it had a staff who personified the characteristics of a Gentle Teacher and nominated Derrick Baston from Kinbrook Apartments. A few short weeks before the dinner, CDD received a call that Derrick had in fact won the Award.

Here is just a glimpse of why CDD felt Derrick deserved this award. Derrick frequently makes the statement "I am blessed to have two jobs that I love; one as an educator in the Grandview School District and one as a Direct Support Professional for CDD."

The fact that Derrick loves his CDD job is evident. The amount of himself he puts into his job is unbelievable. Derrick spent part of the year as a one-on-one staff with an individual. The young man had attempted suicide, was a substance abuser and had witnessed a parent die in his presence. In short, he was a young man with a broken heart. Derrick spent time with this young man, interacted with him on a father/brother level. He took the young man fishing, to the community center to exercise and encouraged his artistic abilities. There were many times Derrick was able to reach this young man when his broken heart could not stand the pain any longer. Derrick would provide comfort during times of crisis and he was able to mend the heart for most of those times of distress. There were times when a crisis occurred in the middle of the night, during Derrick's day off, and staff would call him because the young man needed Derrick. He would not hesitate to get up and go to Kinbrook to assure the young man felt safe and loved.

And if that wasn't enough, Derrick also interacted with another individual who came to CDD after his mother passed. This person spent the majority of his time in his apartment and it was Derrick who was able to find that "thing" that was able to connect to this man. Derrick discovered that this person loved sports. This man watched sports on all levels from high school to professional. Being a sports fanatic himself, Derrick was able to make a connection and began developing a relationship with this person. Derrick shared this information with all the staff who then made it their mission to "brush up" on their sports trivia. During discussions with this man, the staff discovered the person enjoyed music which was another way to connect with him. This individual has since started to go to a day program; he interacts with others and has incorporated himself in the community at Kinbrook. Derrick was able to find that connection, share it with other staff and they were all able to make a connection to someone who seemed ready to keep everyone at arm's length.

Derrick is an excellent mentor and role model for the people he supports and they know that he cares by his actions. There are not many men in this field of giving; Derrick has become someone who is looked up to by the individuals he supports and by the other staff as well.

In closing, John McGee often said, "Gentle is not something that can be taught, it is a way of being." Derrick's demeanor is exemplary of the concept and principles of Gentle Teaching. He is a big man with an even bigger heart.



Derrick Baston receives the John McGee Gentle Teaching Award from Tammy Kemp, Board President of eitas. Derrick was the first person to receive the award.

Contributing Writers

- Kelsey Brazelton (Editor)
- Jim Johnson
- Sarah Mudd
- Della McLaughlin



SPRING EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

1 Year

Victor Cabral
Consuelo Coleman
Asheena Gunn
Camesha Porter
Porshay Roberts

2-5 years

Ecstahsi Abraham (2)
Laverne Dailey (2)
Courtney Jones (2)
Cissy Kocourek (2)
Zoritha McNeal (3)
Brian Rhodes (3)
Neeta Rajkanan (5)
Joann Strother (5)

6-9 Years

Omar Hameed (7)
Arthur Mourning (7)
Patrick Ukecha (9)

10+ Years

Jody Michael (11)
Sarah Mudd (17)
Jenifer Kemp (23)

ABOVE AND BEYOND STAFF

Kudos to Staff Two staff members recognized for their efforts on the job

Several staff members were submitted for the Staff Kudos article this time, so we decided to highlight a couple of them here. The actual article is still on page 4.



Darryl Williams

Della McLaughlin, Manager at Elms House, would like to recognize her staff Darryl. She said he has helped one of her individuals through some medical issues over the last couple months and given counseling to that person to provide support. Della mentioned he has also displayed Gentle Teaching many times while aiding this person. She said he is always a friend to the individual and has even shared some of his own experience to comfort the person or know what the future holds during some medical issues. "I'm really appreciative of Darryl. He's been helping me through this," the individual stated.

Della said Darryl has not only been a support to one person, but is a highly-appreciated staff person at Elms House. Darryl takes individuals on walks in the neighborhood and constantly shows patience with persons served.



Vesta Stewart

Vesta was hired in the fall 2012. She began her work at Teresa's Place and took charge quickly becoming a Lead Programmer. Mark Wilson, her Manager, would like to recognize her efforts in organizing Teresa's Case Record and Program Books as well as showing Teresa support.

Mark said she did a lot for Teresa. "She became a motherly figure for Teresa."

Mark went on to say that Vesta volunteered to work at other locations when Teresa departed CDD. He said she is now at the ISL Willow Creek and is doing a great job there. She is keeping the records and files together and being a good role model for the staff and individuals.

SANDY TO THE RESCUE

Gentle Pup Sandy the puppy shows affection to the individuals at Elms House

With all the rainy days this spring, House Manager, Della, decided to cheer up some of the individuals in her house. Della brought in her dog, Sandy, a one-year-old pup, to visit. One individual, John, really enjoyed petting Sandy and giving her bones. The persons served got a great laugh watching Sandy take the bones over to the yard and bury it in the dirt, discreetly covering it with her nose.

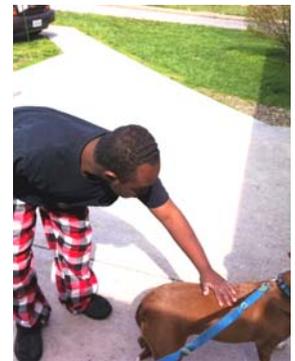
Aside from the burying, Sandy showed off her on-demand tricks of sitting and shaking. Roger especially appreciated the visit, spending more than an hour playing with and petting Sandy. The pup lapped up the attention, giving out lots of kisses.

Even Tony, who has a history of be-

ing afraid of dogs, joined the fun. Of course, it helped once he realized Sandy was named after a character in one of his all time favorite movies— Grease. Tony showed off his "grease-lighting" moves and even ventured to pet Sandy.

Tony's favorite part of about Sandy's visit was in fact, her name—Sandy. Grease is one of his favorite movies.

"Sandy in Grease, Grease is the word," he said.



Tony works up the courage to pet Sandy the one-year old puppy. Della, the Manager, brought her dog in to cheer up the individuals at the home.



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Jim Johnson

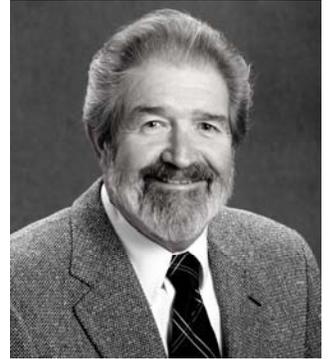
Greetings. One of the exciting things about the first five months of each year is following the weekly legislative reports from our trade association in Jefferson City. On March 17th, the First Session of 97th General Assembly adjourned. Following the weekly actions, or sometime inactions of the state legislature, is something I will miss once I retire. The First Session this year turned out to be very productive with many bills introduced resulting in 163 new pieces of legislation passed. The 58 new members of the House or Representatives and 12 new Senators contributed to a very productive First Session, though there were a few things some of us found disappointing.

Community developmental disabilities providers, however, really scored this Session with additional appropriations for a much needed cost-of-living-adjustment, rate rebasing to adjust many of the lower service rates paid all over the state, significant new appropriations to actually eliminate the DD waitlist, increases for regional Autism projects, funding for brain injury services and sufficient funding for Vocational Rehabilitation to match all available federal dollars this coming year. So, after the disappointing track record of the 96th General Assembly, I could never have predicted the positive appropriation outcomes passed in this Session. Yes, I am going to miss years like this in the future.

CDD anticipates continued expansion of our Supported Living Program and our employment services. Also, the agency's Board of

Directors recently lowered our eligibility age from 18 to 16, so we are anticipating growth in residential services with the state's Division of Children Services. We are really looking forward to F.Y. 13-14. Along with the other positive features in this edition of *CELEBRATIONS*, I am pleased to share this positive news with our readers.

Due to an untimely death in my family, I had to be in Oklahoma on April 23rd, the evening of the Eitas Annual Awards Dinner, a very popular event for our Jackson County citizens. I can recall missing only two of those events in my tenure with the agency. I was looking forward to congratulating one of our best Direct Support Professionals for being awarded the first Gentle Teaching Award in honor of Gentle Teaching founder, the late John McGee. Center for Developmentally Disabled is very grateful that Derrick Baston came to us looking for a part-time job. Derrick is also a full-time public school teacher in Grandview and he was no doubt a "gentle teacher" before the term and its applications were formalized by Dr. McGee and promoted by Eitas. The story is on the front page of this edition. Thanks Derrick for what you do.



Staff and individuals at Elms House smile as they prepare to head off to the Eitas Board Dinner. Individuals and staff persons are recognized at the spring dinner each year.



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

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DISABLED**

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Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County



Staff Kudos Corner

Staff recognition for all they do

Haven't seen this column before? Well, we decided to add a new element to the Newsletter. We will highlight staff who have recently been hired or have been observed going above and beyond for their job.

We would like to welcome aboard: Gloria Smith, Lavonda Stevens, Samatha Cox, Regina Scott, Denise Moore, Archelle Kimble, Kaylee Kocourek, Tunisha Montgomery, Ardella Smith, Alicia Hicks, Francesca Davis, Lakeshea Kirkland and Robina Washington.

Tanya Gardner

Brad Rusher, Manager at Cedars House, would like to recognize his Lead Programmer, Tanya, for all the help she gives him. And for the extra things she does for the home. She organizes activities, trains new staff for the home. "She reviews med books and is an overall assistant in anything I ask," he said. "She even bakes sometimes."

CDD frequently has individual openings in our apartments, group homes and individualized homes in various areas of the community. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a person served 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 individuals with financial needs, travel and recreation. If you wish to contribute, please send your check or money order to:

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