

Summer 2010

# CELEBRATIONS

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## SUMMER BITS AND PIECES

### Volleyball Champ

Villas resident wins silver medal at Special Olympics National Games

As athletes from nearly 50 states paraded into Bob Devaney Sports Center wearing uniforms that best represented their states, immense pride was felt throughout basketball arena.

Family, friends and loved-ones gathered to celebrate the hard-work and dedication their athletes put into training for the one week of competition from July 19-23 in everything from aquatics, athletics and bocce, weight lifting and much more.

Inspirational music, motivational speakers, sports figures, and a few members of Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver's family, set the scene for opening ceremonies at the 2010 Special Olympics National Games in Lincoln, Nebraska.

One of CDD's own residents, David Jones of the Villas Apartments, qualified for the National Games competing in volleyball. He was chosen for the National Games in the summer of 2009 and had to go to sports camp and raise \$1,000 to attend.

David said he trained nearly every day for a year. Marilyn Smith, Lead Programmer at the Villas, said the coaches were flexible with his training schedule.

"The coaches were good coaches," she said. "They picked him up and made sure he got to practice and would compromise with his schedule if he was busy or something."

Along with his training, he raised \$1,000 with his team and people in the community.

"My team helped raise money," he said. "We put money in a bucket and churches got involved."

With the close of training, and all the money raised, David headed off with his duffle bag in hand full of multiple uniforms, several pairs of tennis shoes, hats, pins and much more.

As David rode to Lincoln on a Greyhound bus with his teammates, he said he had mixed emotions.

"I was happy about being there," he said. "I was nervous and excited to be there. I was glad everyone was cheering for us and clapping for us, if we win or lose."

As a week of playing two to three games per day came to a close, Team Missouri received a silver medal.

After all was over with, David said he would rather play basketball if he had the opportunity to go back.



David serves the ball in one of his volleyball games. The team received a silver medal after competition.



David Jones poses with his silver medal decorated with all the pins he traded. Athletes from around the country spent a week in Lincoln, Neb. for competition.



## SUMMER EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

### 1 Year

Carolyn Whitney  
Jacquelyn Potts  
Erica Dixon  
Carleen Malroy  
Demetreus McMichael  
Tia Reese  
William Lee  
Dorothy Smith  
Anita Wilson

### 2-5 years

Georgett Perkins (2)  
Wendy Tyson (2)  
Michelle McCann (2)  
Helen Faubion (2)  
Ernesta McNeal (2)  
Collette Shannon (3)  
Connie Bryant (3)  
Joy Schulz (3)  
Karen Harrison (4)  
Charissa Williams (5)  
Debra Hardin (5)  
Connie Johnson (5)

### 6-9 Years

Anissa Tiger (6)  
Gail Chandler (6)  
Melanie Gunderson (6)  
Ernestine McHudson (6)  
Willie Jean Sybert (9)

### 10+ Years

June Gates (10)  
Shirley Avery (11)  
Ron Huffman (14)  
Carolyn Quinzy (15)

## RESIDENT ACTIVITIES

### Resident Retreat

CDD residents get away from home to enjoy fishing and fun

On June 22, with the sun shining bright, many of the residents and staff of CDD were treated to a great day at the lake, fishing and having a barbecue. The vans were loaded and driven out to Leavenworth, Kan., where we were the guests of "80 Acres," a retreat center off in the fields of Kansas with a lake for fishing.

The residents were able to use the conference center as a place to escape the heat when needed, but most were out near the water, dipping their poles, pulling in fish and just taking in the view. The staff grilled burgers and dogs with all the fixings, so even if the fish were sparse everyone would eat.

Games were played, music blared and the residents danced the day away, and

everyone enjoyed having the opportunity to be outdoors in a beautiful setting of nature, fishing and walking the simple trails.

The residents and staff had a wonderful time and hope to return each year to fish and enjoy the outdoors. Thank you to 80 Acres for their wonderful invitation.



Jimmy of Sycamore and Casey of Kinbrook sit and enjoy the weather during the trip to the lake for fishing. CDD residents spent a day at 80 Acres in June.

## RESIDENT ACTIVITIES

### Fashion Show

Grandview residents display their fashion skills

Excitement was in the air and the giggles were echoing throughout the halls. The late afternoon hours were narrowing the gap to show time.

Fashion Show time that is. The men and women of Kinbrook, Lafayette Manor and Southern Road had been preparing this event for a long time.

The First Annual Fashion Show brought residents of the three Grandview homes together on the runway at Kinbrook. Some of them came in with wind-swept hair tucked under hats with gently flowing blouses or jackets. The men approached the evening in one of their trendy shirts with a very cool pair of pants or shorts to complete the look. Both men and women appeared with their combined boutique finds fashionably put together with the best of Wal-Mart. Combing the two, allowed them to look elegant on a budget. They mixed and matched outfits and created inspired versions that any big name fashion designer would be jealous of. It also gave each participant a feeling of confidence and allowed them to feel beautiful in their own skin, while staying true to who they are.



Residents and staff from Kinbrook and Lafayette Manor pose with their fashion show gear on. This was the first year for the show.

The decorations and music set the tone for an upbeat gathering of family and friends who waited anxiously to see each resident strut their stuff on the runway. No one was disappointed, as many oohs and ahhs were heard throughout the evening. Some residents modeled two or more outfits. Some of the staff from each house also strutted down the runway in their fine apparel.

"I have to say, the residents were the highlight of the evening," Betty said. "They can show the staff a thing or two about combining clothing and accessories on a budget without significantly sacrificing fashion."

After everyone enjoyed the Fashion Show, a barbecue picnic was served to all who attended. Now, that sparked an idea for another type of adventure. It was mentioned more than once that next year: to

have a barbecue cook off combined with the Fashion Show.

It was at that point that this writer decided to slip off into the sunset with a smile on my face but too tired to think about next year already. It is a good thing our residents can keep up the pace and are patient with us when we lag behind.



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**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Jim Johnson**

Greetings. My favorite season of the year is now in its final month. In many ways, especially for our residents, it has been a great summertime season. You can read about the resident travel and other seasonal events. Thanks again to our donors, no one missed camp this year who wanted to attend, and we financed several other outings and activities. For our staff, we have had the busiest summer in my career. As you read on, you will get a better picture of why we have been so very busy. In early August, we completed our 10th survey to maintain national accreditation. We addressed 687 accreditation standards, and that preparation was very taxing on our Managers and professional staff, in view of all the other challenges we had this summer. I will comment on the survey results and the merits of national accreditation in the Fall edition, but yes, we did well.

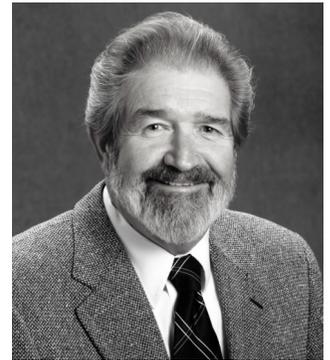
As I mentioned in the Spring edition of Celerations, this business got very challenging in 2009; funding difficulties will continue through all of next year. We are adapting to life at CDD not being normal or predictable. This agency is more flexible and adaptable than I could have predicted. You can be sure these required changes have been harder for me to accept than others. The staff, and our new business environment, are bringing me along. At 64 I have matured in many ways, but gaining further wisdom is still in my immediate future.

CDD did have to downsize this year due to the 15 vacancies we have carried over the past year. It was a painful decision, but we selected our most burdened cost center, the Southern Road group home in Grandview. We opened that home in March 2006 and closing it was difficult because we had grown so fond of the home. Southern Road was leased to us by EITAS who did a spectacular job of remodeling the home in

2005 and then completely furnishing it just before we moved in. We've appreciated their support as our landlord and funder over the past four years, and we further appreciate their generous donation of the very usable furnishing as we vacated the home. Those very nice furnishings found new homes and are still in use throughout CDD.

A major "thank you" is in order for the Regional Office of DMH as well. EITAS and the Regional Office worked together with CDD to allow us to relocate the Southern Road residents to our vacant apartment locations. Six of the previous Southern Road residents moved to their own apartments. This took some creative funding and authorizations at several levels. Since June of this year, we have fortunately reduced our vacancies from 15 to five. All five vacancies are in our apartment programs, in case anyone is looking for a home. All of this was completed just two weeks prior to the accreditation survey. Now you know why it has been the busiest summer of my career.

By the time you receive the Fall edition of Celerations, we will have at least 10 new state Senators and 65 new members of the House of Representatives. Much of our future will be determined by these men and women who likely know very little about our business. We have a lot of educating to do when the first session of the 96th General Assembly opens on Jan. 5, 2011. You can help by giving careful thought to your vote on Tuesday, Nov. 2nd.



**Carl of Sycamore gets help from a Ashanti as he heads to the lake to fish. Residents from Sycamore and other houses gathered in Leavenworth, Kansas for a day of fishing.**



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Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County



**Rollercoaster Ride to Fun  
CDD residents enjoy a day at Worlds of Fun**

High-pitched giggles and loud screams belted out of CDD residents as they rode the Timberwolf, the Mamba, the Patriot and many more. By the end of hitting the rides, many residents were sun soaked and drenched after their day at Worlds of Fun.

Each summer CDD residents spend a day of fun with residents agency-wide they wouldn't ordinarily get to see. Staff willingly and reluctantly rode roller coasters and got soaked throughout the day. Residents and staff filed into the park, one by one, grabbed their ticket-to-fun and off they went.

Residents from Birch and Summit Apartments found themselves at the Viking Voyager early in the day just in time to get soaked and be hungry for more. Summit residents later wandered to the Mamba where they were able to dry off and get a few screams in.

Margie Olson of the Villas Apartments said the Timberwolf was the best ride.

"The Timberwolf was my favorite ride because it was the most exciting," she said.

After the final hours of the day wound down, CDD residents journeyed back to their homes and will look forward to next year's trip.



**CDD residents spent a day in June at Worlds of Fun. They rode roller coasters and water rides throughout the day.**

**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. 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.**