

Summer 2012

# CELEBRATIONS

## SUMMER BITS AND PIECES

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### Contributing Writers

- Kelsey Brazelton (Editor)
- Jim Johnson
- Tanya Gardner
- Morgan Brown

### Strike! Spare! Gutter ball!

#### Individuals from several homes took a morning to go bowling

Bowling balls race down the lanes crashing into pins at the end of the lane waiting to be clobbered by the bowling balls. "Oops, gutter ball," says Tanya Gardner, Lead Programmer at Cedars House. This was Tanya's first attempt at bowling, but be assured she got a little better. Her counterparts however, got in the swing of things much easier. She said she needed to take lessons from her residents at Cedars on how to bowl.

Residents from several of the homes, who were unable to attend the annual Worlds of Fun day, had the opportunity to go bowling at Premier Bowling Lanes in Raytown, Mo. Strikes and spares were thrown throughout the morning of the two-hour session.

Pam at Cedars House said she had fun and wanted to participate more in the in future. Staff and residents from the homes took turns throwing the bowling balls to knock down as many pins as possible. Some succeeded and some did not. They all had smiles on their faces from enjoying the day anyway. It was a break from workshops and a chance to renew acquaintances and meet individuals from other homes.

Even with little time at Premier Bowl, residents at Kinbrook threw strike after strike as they bowled without bumpers. Brian of Summit Apartments rolled the ball down an assistance ramp with ease getting strikes as if he were already a pro. Emily and Susie of Minor Ridge defeated their staff person all morning. Needless to say, the residents seemed to be better bowlers than staff.

As everyone parted ways, many wanted more time to bowl and were eager to return. Until next time, some will continue to bowl regularly to build their skills for the next big event.



Brian of Summit uses his assistance ramp to roll his bowling ball down the lane to get a strike. Individuals from many homes joined Brian in the morning festivities.



## SUMMER EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

### 1 Year

Denise Tanner  
 Donnika Strother  
 Derrick Baston  
 Tanesha Greer  
 Tanya Starr  
 Cicely Ruff  
 Bethany Darby  
 Letitia Brown-McCallop  
 Anissa Ector  
 Lola Sherrils  
 Melvonn Bryant  
 Donna Wigfall  
 Deseree Williamson  
 Jenna Sims

### 2-5 years

Tanya Gardner (2)  
 Myrtle Moore (2)  
 Mallory Ervin (2)  
 Clara Wilson (2)  
 Rebecca Williams (2)  
 Shaun Powers (2)  
 Erica Dixon (3)  
 Demetreus McMichael (3)  
 William Lee (3)  
 Anita Wilson (3)  
 Georgett Perkins (4)  
 Wendy Tyson (4)  
 Michelle McCann (4)  
 Joy Schulz (5)

### 6-9 Years

Marilyn Smith (6)  
 Connie Johnson (7)  
 Charissa Williams (7)  
 Gail Chandler (8)  
 Tina McHudson (8)

### 10+ Years

Willie Jean Sybert (11)  
 June Gates (12)  
 Shirley Avery (13)  
 Ron Huffman (16)  
 Carolyn Quinzy (17)

## WORLDS OF FUN

### Roller Coaster Ride CDD enjoys Worlds of Fun

Not a cloud in the sky, sun shining brightly and all the energy in the world set the tone for the annual day at Worlds of Fun. The day was filled with roller coasters and water rides for everyone to take part in.

Individuals from all the homes attended the fun-filled day. Daniel and George from Summit Apartments competed to see who could ride the most rides. Not quite sure who out did the other, but it was a tight race to say the least. Rumor has it, the prize was a cheeseburger.

Along with George and Daniel, many of their peers from Summit and Villas Apartments stuck together to ride coasters like The Patriot and the Mamba. As the heat of the day progressed, the group headed over to the Fury of the Nile to cool themselves off—a few got soaked, but it was a much-needed cool down.

Tony from Elms House and Janice, who lives in an Independent Supported Living residence (ISL), tagged along with Summit and Villas

residents. They all enjoyed rides like the Fjord Fjarlane, the Octopus, the Viking Voyager and countless more.

By the end of the day, many of the residents were exhausted from running all over the park. Staff gathered the individuals to go to the vans as they headed back to their abodes to nap the rest of the afternoon.

Suffice it to say, the residents will look back on their memories from this year's adventures and anticipate what next year has in store.



**George and Daniel from Summit rest during their quest to out do each other to ride the most rides. Their peers tried to compete, but didn't come close.**

## RESIDENT COMEDY SHOW

### Cracking up Laughing Theron of Cedars gets the neighborhood laughing with his jokes

While many people are wondering how they will get through the rest of the week, Cedars House took it upon them to let loose on a Wednesday night and put on a Stand-up Comedy show. Residents from down the street at Summit came to show support for their peers and get some laughs in.

Theron Hauer was the main attraction, but in order for him to do so, he needed opening acts. Other residents in the home were happy oblige. Veteran staff member, Georgett Perkins served as the Emcee for the night.

Nikki danced to a variety of Beyonce songs and her peers joined her while she got her groove on. Larry stayed with the musical theme. He decided to play a George Strait song on his guitar to entertain the audience.

Pam decided to slow the pace down just a bit and told everyone about past tales and adventures from Cedars House. Some may have been there and some probably got a good story they had never heard. Emcee, Georgett tried to follow in Pam's footsteps and tried her hand at telling a ghost story. This did not go

well for Georgett, as more people laughed than were scared or shed tears.

After all the opening acts completed their parts, Theron took the stage with his Stand-up Comedy act. He told a lot of funny jokes and had the whole house laughing for more than 15 minutes.

Once the night was complete, the residents and staff helped themselves to many delicious finger foods such as chicken bites, chips and dip, cookies, punch and much more. As the night came to an end, residents socialized about the show and talked about all their favorite acts.



**Theron of Cedars House poses in front of his poster announcing his Stand-up Comedy night. Individuals from Summit came to show support as well.**



## **CDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## **FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

### **Jim Johnson**

Greetings. Wow, July and August really qualify as "summertime" this year. For those of us who like hot weather we should have no complaints. However, the lawns are so dry at all of our homes that for the first time ever, I have placed a ban on outdoor cooking. I certainly did so with regret, as our staff and residents really enjoy their barbecues in the fair weather months. Hopefully, I can lift the ban soon.

We are now half-way through our 40th year of providing residential services. All of you who live in the Kansas City, Missouri metro area were mailed our Annual Report in late June. We included a timeline of significant development events going back to our beginning in 1972. It is a positive history that made this agency a mature human services business. The Report is filled with finance and service outcomes. It is a publication I am proud to distribute to the public. If there are any of you who did not receive the Annual Report and want one, we still have some left so contact us and we'll put one in the mail to you.

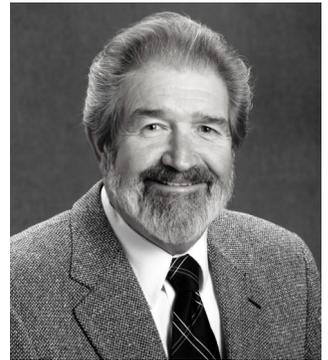
I have been with the agency since 1983, so the timeline just referenced includes all of my 29 years with the agency. It has been a privilege to play a key leadership role in achieving the agency's mission, and keeping this agency on a steady course of growth. We have succeeded and are having a very productive 40th year.

Much of the content of CELERATIONS covers recreation and fun-time events. As you can see from reading about activities in the Cedars House kitchen on page four, much of our resident training is fun and skill-building, especially if one is learning to bake something delicious. Cedars

House also has their trip to Branson in September planned and scheduled. Recreation and travel is a supportive service we really enjoy providing. Other than safe and affordable housing, there is nothing we do that contributes more to our individuals' quality of life than the recreation and travel we promote.

One thing that is not covered in this edition, is summer camp. Dozens of residents attend camps near Parkville or near Excelsior Springs each year. They are able to do so with camp scholarship supplements from EITAS and from donations from our CELERATIONS readers. The majority of our donations arrive in the small envelopes placed in each edition of the newsletters. Most range from \$10 to \$100. We do have a few substantial donors as well, and we truly appreciate all of you who support our residents.

In the Fall edition, you will read more about out-of-town travel events. Also this year, we have been able to purchase many of our residents tickets to the Kansas City Chiefs. They love to go to Arrowhead, and even if you don't understand first-downs or third-and-long, anyone attending knows he/she is at the biggest Sunday afternoon party in town. So today, I hope our readers continue to support us, and I hope Kansas City gets some substantial rainfall very soon. We have lost five trees this year, and that is the only bad news I have to report in this edition.



**Pam from Cedars celebrates a good round of bowling with her staff person Georgett. She, along with many of her peers, got strikes and spares throughout a morning of bowling.**



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**1010 W 39th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri  
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**Phone: 816-531-0045  
Fax: 816-756-5612  
E-mail: [info@cddkc.org](mailto:info@cddkc.org)  
[www.cddkc.org](http://www.cddkc.org)**



Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County



## Sweet Tooth

### Several individuals at Cedars learn to bake sugar cookies

The best things in life are free, right? Well, here at Cedars we think the best things in life are "sweet."

It's a good day at Cedars when there's a warm smell of delight coming from the kitchen, whether it be banana nut muffins or a rich chocolate cake. Morgan along with Tanya, another staff person at Cedars, teaches cooking classes or demonstrations a couple times a month to assist the residents with their cooking skills so they can learn new techniques.

It was baking time and everyone needed to satisfy their sweet tooth, so what better idea than to make sugar cookies. Marty, Pam, Theron and Larry were eager to participate in this learning activity and their taste buds were delighted as well.

After making the sugar cookies, which came out wonderful by the way, everyone enjoyed a taste and once again it was a good day at Cedars. And from all the smiles on everyone's faces you might want say it was "sweets for the sweet."

These demonstrations are taught throughout the year so residents have the opportunity to learn new cooking techniques to better their cooking skills.



**Morgan teaches, Theron, Larry, Pam and Marty how to make sugar cookies. The individuals learn cooking techniques for daily life.**

CDD frequently has resident 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 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:**

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