

Summer 2013

CELEBRATIONS

SUMMER BITS AND PIECES

Productive Employment

Individuals with employment services go to an APSE Conference

With the van packed to the brim, a crew headed out at 9 a.m. to start their 12-hour journey to Indiana. Four members of CDD's Employment Services, Josh Thompson, Dominique Bradley, David Gates and Donald Cox attended the National Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Conference in Indianapolis. Much of the funding to attend the conference came from Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County — eitas. Joining them were two staff members, Jody Michael and Andrew Gabler. Once they arrived at the JW Marriott Hotel, they were greeted by friendly staff, cold cucumber water and a soft bed overlooking Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the Indianapolis Colts.

Jody said the hotel was one of the best she's ever been to. She also mentioned, it was top to bottom glass and every way you looked out you could see the stadium or a small lake nearby. She even said the staff at the hotel were some of the best she's come in contact with in a long time.

"It was one of the best hotels I've ever stayed in," she said. "I never thought in a million years that I would be staying in a hotel of this caliber. I thought it was very cool that the hotel hosted a conference for persons with developmental disabilities and treated them like any other person."

On the first day of the conference, the individuals and staff from CDD's employment services went to two different sessions based on the information relevant to them. Josh, Dominique, David and Donald were given a tour of the hotel and were able to talk with the staff. They were given the opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes at a hotel and what kinds of jobs are available to them. Each person received a JW Marriott shirt to wear and keep while on the tour. Jody and Andrew went to a session regarding tax incentives for employers and how to manage budgets for the services.

At dinner one evening, David and Josh introduced Andrew and Jody to the hotel's general manager and his wife who were dining in the hotel restaurant. The general manager told Andrew and Jody he was surprised how professional that David and Josh were on the tour and that the questions they asked his staff were ones that an applicant should be asking.

Josh said his favorite part of the hotel tour was that he realized there is more to landscaping a hotel yard than raking the yard.

"I liked the tools they used and one guy talked to the plants," he said. "I thought it was cool how they trimmed the bushes and plants."

The following day Josh, Dominique, David and Donald attended sessions that included subjects such as, "What To Look for in a Job Coach?" and "What To Do and Not To Do" while talking with employers. Andrew and Jody attended sessions on subject matters from the employer's point of view and what their needs were from Job Developers. Andrew commented that he learned more effective ways to approach perspective employers and how to use the Developing Personal Genius Plans.

After everyone consumed all the knowledge they could handle, the crew headed back to Kansas City with minds full of information to both develop the Employment Services and how individuals can utilize it.



Dominique, Josh, Andrew, David and Donald sit at a rest area on their way to the APSE conference in Indiana in June. The individuals learned about what they could do to get a job in the real world.

Inside this issue:

Employment services	1
Bowling	2
Staff Anniversaries	2
Worlds of Fun	2
Executive Director	3
Board Members	3
Staff Kudos	4

Contributing Writers

- Kelsey Brazelton (Editor)
- Jim Johnson
- Jody Michael
- Charissa Williams



SUMMER EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

1 Year

Joyce Davis
 Angela Hamilton
 Abby Keith
 Lorraine Moland
 Peter Nien
 LaTanya Sweeten
 Brad Rusher
 Elma Warrick
 Mark Wilson
 Tamika Allen
 Denise Green
 Erika Jackson
 Michael McKelvy
 Lisa Washington

2-5 years

Donna Wigfall (2)
 Lola Sherrils (2)
 Melvonn Bryant (2)
 Cicely Ruff (2)
 Bethany Darby (2)
 Tanya Starr (2)
 Derrick Baston (2)
 Denise Tanner (2)
 Tanesha Greer (2)
 Shaun Powers (3)
 Clara Wilson (3)
 Rebecca Williams (3)
 Mallory Ervin (3)
 Tanya Gardner (3)
 Erica Dixon (4)
 William Lee (4)
 Anita Wilson (4)
 Georgett Perkins (5)
 Michelle McCann (5)
 Wendy Tyson (5)

6-9 Years

Joyce Schulz (6)
 Marilyn Smith (7)
 Charissa Williams (8)
 Gail Chandler (9)

10+ Years

June Gates (13)
 Shirley Avery (14)
 Doris McGowin (17)
 Ron Huffman (17)
 Carolyn Quinzy (18)

BOWLING

Strikes and Spares Persons Served and Staff throw a couple rounds of bowling

Pins were set, bumpers and bowling balls in place. The stage was set for a two-hour bowling session. The individuals who were unable to attend Worlds of Fun gather to bowl each year for their summer outing. Some people from past years and some newcomers joined the crowd.

Individuals from Birch House, Cedars House, Summit Apts. and Kinbrook Apts met up at the Premier Bowling Alley in Raytown for a mid-day break from workshops and daily life at the homes to get their bowling game on.

The men at Birch House threw several strikes throughout the morning as did Brian from Summit. David of Birch House threw his arms up in the air as if cheering on a team when he got a strike. His housemates sat in disgust and were less enthused as he beat them each round with strikes and spares. And plenty of those were managed during the day.

Tom of Birch House followed the tone of the afternoon, by getting many strikes and outscoring his staff.

"I liked getting strikes," he said.

Mikey, Albert and Casey of Kinbrook outscored their staff all morning long.

As the day progressed, more strikes and spares were made. Many individuals even stopped for a lunch break to get re-fueled for the rest of their game.

Once the two-hour session came to a close, everyone headed back home to brag to their housemates how they did on their bowling game.



Mikey of Kinbrook gets assistance from his staff Helen. The two-hour session made for countless strikes and spares.

WORLDS OF FUN

Rides Galore! Persons Served enjoy another year at Worlds of Fun

The sun was out and the sky was as blue as the eye could see. The weather cooperated again this year for the annual outing to Worlds of Fun. The individuals rode many rides, won prizes and enjoyed a picnic lunch.

Ernie, Larry and Danny C, of Cedars house, and Steven, of Sycamore house, and George and Daniel R of Summit Apts. played games and rode rides all day. Some of them included toss the ball into the bucket and throwing darts at balloons. Everyone managed to stump the guesser and win a prize on the "How much do you weigh?" game.

Some of the individuals were unsure about getting on the rides, but staff were able to sooth them through the process and they gave it a try, and rode on few rides with the staff's assistance.

George and Daniel R challenged each other on how many rides they could go on. They were brave

enough to go on all of the roller coasters.

Steven smiled and laughed as he took pictures of staff and fellow housemates riding the rides.

Ernie talked about going on his favorite ride all day the, "bumper cars!"



Garrett and Donald of Summit Apartments wave as they ride by on the Fury of the Nile at Worlds of Fun. This is one of the many water rides at the park.

Brad M, of Summit Apts. and Roy of the Villas cooled off by riding water rides together.

Brad said it was a scary going up the hill, but once the water ride went down the hill, it was enjoyable.

Lafayette staff supported their individuals who needed assistance with wheelchairs. They ensured that the individuals would still be able to ride the rides during the day.

For others, they spent a more leisurely time walking around and soaking up rays while eating ice cream and other snacks.

As the day came to a close, everyone headed back to their home to cool down and look forward to next year's excursion.



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

Peter Frick

Jerry Wheeler

Karrie Krumm

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Jim Johnson

Greetings. As readers can see, we have kept busy during the long days of summer with recreation and travel. More travel will likely be included in the Fall Edition as well. We have done more than we can cover in one CELERATIONS newsletter.

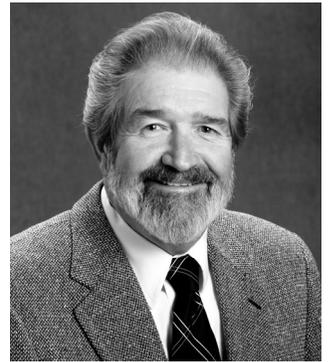
The first story in this edition took place in June and was much more than recreation. It was training for both staff and persons served. In 2012, the agency began offering a new service as an alternative for persons to work who either could not fit into sheltered workshop programs available, or who chose not to attend a workshop. With the encouragement of our Jackson County funding source, Eitas, we began training staff to create a version of community employment to fit the needs of individuals served by CDD and persons in the community who are eligible. Eitas generously funded the costs for four of the individuals participating in our community employment services to attend a conference in Indianapolis. There is a huge interest in these services. Our only constraint to the employment services growing into a stand-alone program serving anyone in the county eligible, is additional funding. The services have grown some in 2013 and by 2014 we will be ready to broaden participation, if additional public funding is available.

2013 has been a year which we have fortunately sustained our Group Living and Semi-Independent Living Apartment Programs. Though we expect that group living will be downsized in time, there still seems to be a preference for such homes for the immediate future, and we are able to fill apartment vacancies very quickly. Parents, guardians and individuals served continue to gravitate to our individual, HUD-subsidized units.

They are popular one-bedroom living environments. This year we have also seen growth in our community living services

with the Supported Living Program. These are highly individualized support services that require considerably more staff. Over the past year our staff roster has grown from about 120 staff to more than 180. Our staff training demands have greatly expanded. CDD is a very busy place.

I will end my portion of CELERATIONS with personal news. After 30 years with CDD, I informed the Board of Directors on August 28th that I will retire and move to another phase of life on January 31, 2014. The Board of Directors has engaged a search firm to consider applications for the Executive Director position. They hope to have my replacement identified very early in 2014. If readers want to apply or encourage someone to apply, contact the following entity: HcapSearchNP, 600 Broadway, Suite 690, Kansas City, MO. 64105. The principal contact person is Jennifer Furla, 816-474-7040, <jfurla@hcapsearch.com>. Right now, retirement is just far enough away that I don't feel it yet, and we've been very busy with agency growth, various routines for this time of year, and we just completed our 11th accreditation survey in August. In the Fall Edition, I will offer more thoughts on CDD, my retirement and departure and how the search is going. In the meantime, it is business as usual.



Michael and Tony of Elms house rest while they wait to move on to the next ride. Individuals from all the locations took a day off work to spend at Worlds of Fun.



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



Empowering individuals through advocacy and support

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.

DeAngela Young, Tashawnda Rideau and LaNonda Rollins: Erica, Manager of Lafayette, wants to recognize three of her staff who were crucial in helping organize and get the home ready for the CARF survey in August. They went above and beyond their duties to make sure things were in order.

Donte Hosman: Mark Wilson, Manager of ISLs, wants to recognize Donte for his efforts in working with two men at one of the new ISLs and stepping up to become the Lead DSP for that location.

Donations for ISLs: As we have opened additional ISL locations, we have the need for donations. If you are doing some fall cleaning, please think about CDD as you give away items. We are in need of household items such as pots and pans, bath towels, utensils and any furniture you are thinking about giving away. *Contact the main office if you would like to make a donation 816-531-0045.*

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:

**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.