

Winter 2012

CELEBRATIONS

WINTER BITS AND PIECES

Direct Support Staff

What goes on behind the scenes

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Once a year several family members, caregivers and guardians are asked to fill out a nomination form for the Annual Eitas Awards that are handed out every spring. Program Manager, Jody Michael, writes what goes on behind the scenes for a Direct Support Professional and what they do to deserve a nomination.

One of the categories that we are asked to nominate someone for is the Direct Support Professional of the Year. Wow! How can you nominate just one person in this category? When you think of all the Direct Support Professionals who work with us and for the people we serve, this is not an easy undertaking.

As a Direct Support Professional, it is expected that while working they will help the people we serve cook, clean their house, do laundry, work on programs, give out medications, assist with personal hygiene, pack lunches for the following work day, work on Personal Plan Objectives, educate on healthy eating, exercise activities and venture out into the community to practice social skills. Then after a long day's work, they document what they did and go home to their family and loved ones.

Every Direct Support Professional whom I am fortunate to work with goes above and beyond what is expected in their job description. They genuinely care for the people they support. In other words, they aren't just in it for a paycheck. They take to heart the dreams, hopes, personal successes and life's up and downs of the people they work for.

They are not only a "staff member" to the individuals we serve, but at some point a brother, sister, mother, father, nurse, counselor and a friend. They are the ones who are there for residents when they are sick or heartbroken and need a shoulder to lean on. CDD's Direct Support Professionals are like family to the people we serve. Staff are not just their caretakers. They share happy times, are there for the residents when they are scared, angry, or upset. More often than not, staff are the only constant trusted human being residents have in their lives. They are the ones who are there helping navigate through this sometimes messy process we call life.

We wish the committee for the Eitas Awards good luck. We know it will be hard to narrow it down to just one Direct Support Professional to give the award to.

Contributing Writers

- Kelsey Brazelton (Editor)
- Jim Johnson
- Jody Michael
- Erica Dixon
- Wendy Tyson



Georgett helps Nikki of Cedars House prepare stuffed peppers for the residents for dinner. Georgett aids all of the residents at Cedars with daily tasks.



WINTER EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

1 Year

- LaShonda Willingham
- Brenda Madison
- Doug Burks
- Rhonda Childress
- Stacee Griffin
- Alice Selken
- John Brown

2-5 years

- Johnny Thompson (2)
- Sherry Hudson (2)
- Bobby Peabody (2)
- Keya Landis (2)
- Julia Jones (2)
- Cecile Simmons (2)
- Terri Slaton (2)
- Mary Mitchell (3)
- Marcella Shelton (3)
- Tom Rosenberger (4)
- Carietta Slatton (4)
- Donald Stepeson (4)
- Sharon Roland (4)
- Solomon Onyemenam (5)

6-9 Years

- Omar Hameed (6)
- Bertha Brown (7)

10+ Years

- Brenda Davis (11)
- Brenda Williams (16)

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Motherly Resident Lafayette Resident who loves to help out at the home

If there was ever a motherly resident, Judy Madison would fit the bill. Judy has been a resident of Lafayette Manor in Grandview since 1999. While living at Lafayette, Judy has formed many great relationships with her housemates. Some of her friends have come and gone, but her relationship with Suzanne, or Suzie as she's known, is a special one. Judy will often be found acting like a mother to Suzie.

In order to be extra helpful, Judy tags along with staff to go with Suzie to her doctor's appointments and always helps her if she needs assistance around the house. Judy can be found in the main office with Suzie making sure she is out of the way of her staff and waiting patiently while staff gathers mail and information for the house.

Aside from being the motherly figure at Lafayette Manor, Judy loves to plan parties for her housemates to attend. She is a great hostess and always greets her guests with a smile. Judy will help pour drinks, set out the silverware, napkins and snacks. She also loves to dance and entertain her housemates and families at the parties.



Judy helps get dinner ready for the evening. She frequently hosts parties to entertain her peers at Lafayette Manor.



Everyday Judy helps set the table for dinner. She is often seen doing many chores around the home.

RESIDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

A Leg Up Summit resident learns to walk with prosthetic leg

Most of us don't remember learning how to walk. But learning to walk with one leg would be much more difficult than two for most everyone. Barrie R. of Summit Apartments has experienced this in the last few months.

Barrie moved into Summit Apartments on July 7, 2011. At the time, he had serious health issues from Diabetes and has been in a wheelchair for the past year. He has one prosthetic leg and hasn't been able to use it due to his Diabetes and as a result, it has caused swelling in his legs.

Lead Programmer, Wendy Tyson, as well as Summit staff aided Barrie in getting his Diabetes under control with proper meal choices, Diabetes education, ensuring that he took his scheduled medications, and transporting him to all medical appointments over the last five months. During the process, staff stayed dedicated to contacting the necessary sources to get the process completed.

On Jan. 30, 2012 Barrie was scheduled to pick up his prosthetic leg. When he arrived back to his apartment, he was walking with a smile and much easier than the staff had anticipated. Though he is using his wheelchair to help steady himself, Barrie is attending physical therapy to allow him to walk on his own. He will continue until he is able to be steady and mobile on two feet.

Wendy said this therapy process has helped the staff become encouraged to continue to help others.



Barrie R. of Summit Apartments walks around on the patio at his apartment. Barrie has worked through Diabetes education and therapy to help himself walk better.



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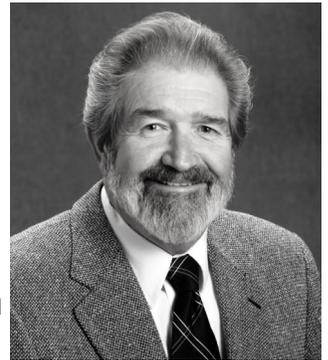
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Jerry Wheeler

**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jim Johnson**

Greetings from CDD. Given the challenges and successes we have shared with our readers in many editions of CELERATIONS, 2012 has graced us with several successes so far and here is one of them. In the past three years, the agency has had to operate with numerous vacancies in our homes and apartments. In the last quarter of 2011, referrals really picked up and just this month, we reached our agency capacity of 96 residents. We are now quite busy searching for homes and apartments in Kansas City area communities to offer leasing options to potential residents and/or their guardians. This will be an option for our current residents as well, if they so choose. The homes and apartments that we own, or those we sponsor through agreements with the U.S. Dept. of HUD, are comfortable, safe, and a community living choice for many. However, we have no plans for purchasing or constructing new residential homes. For the foreseeable future, we will be a resource for assisting individuals and guardians with options for leasing homes to meet their needs and preferences.

represent the interests of persons with disabilities remain persistent and determined to see that essential core services are not cut, though more persons will likely remain on the waiting list in F.Y. 12-13. The legislators I meet are very informed about the needs of the individuals we serve. I find the General Assembly holds a majority of sympathetic and informed lawmakers, so I remain optimistic about some additional funding, also many of us think Missouri's economy is picking up which could affect appropriations. No doubt, I will be commenting on this later in the year.



As usual, CELERATIONS has several interesting stories of resident and staff activities, and achievements. Please review them. Finally, we thank many of you for your 2011 year-end support through our Donor Account for the persons we serve. We all appreciate recreation and leisure time activities in our lives, and this will be the case another year for our residents, and another success to report for persons served in 2012.



An assortment of food is displayed at Cedars house for their Valentine's Day party. Residents and staff celebrated the day with one another.

Looking ahead at services in 2012, our readers are aware that community providers are dependent on mostly public, taxpayer funding to offer the array of needed services to persons with developmental disabilities. The state of Missouri general revenue, and federal Medicaid appropriations assisted many individuals in this current fiscal year to find services and be removed from the waiting list. CDD was thrilled to be a part of that with cost-effective living options available. The second session of the 96th Missouri General Assembly opened on January 4th. Though state funds have generally been spent wisely and efficiently in the past couple of years, all of the federal economic stimulus dollars appropriated to Missouri will have been depleted by June 30th. The state legislature is facing at least a \$4 billion shortfall to maintain current state funded obligations. Advocacy organizations that



House Manager, Nicole, of Cedars helps Charlie make a phone call to a family member. Nicole does all she can to aid the residents at Cedars House with everyday needs.



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

**CENTER FOR
DEVELOPMENTALLY
DISABLED**

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Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County



**Manager Birthday Party
Kinbrook Staff and Residents throw their
Manager a birthday party**



Kinbrook staff, Derrick and Jamie as well as residents Casey, Garrett, Aaron, Nicole, David and Chris gather around Manager Connie to wish her a wonderful birthday. Staff and residents planned the party.



Karon, Derrick, Bertha, Jamie, Shirley and Amy give Connie well wishes at her birthday gathering. Much of the staff helped celebrate.



Nicole M. and Garrett J. give Connie a hug to help celebrate her birthday. Many staff and residents attended.

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, 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.