



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



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 caught going above and beyond for their job.

**Brad Rusher:** *Cedars House Manager.* Since being hired in summer 2012, Brad has changed the dynamics of Cedars home. Brad has previous experience in residential services. He is down to earth and the residents truly enjoy his company.

**Della McLaughlin:** *Elms House Manager.* Della was hired in fall 2012 and came to us from a similar agency in New Jersey. She has done a tremendous amount of work to get the home in order after some struggles in the last few years. Della had gained the respect from both residents and staff.

**Mark Wilson:** *ISL Manager.* Mark was hired in late summer 2012 and took on a totally new position for CDD. He quickly learned the ropes and has helped grow the ISL program leaps and bounds since its start in summer 2012.

**Tyrone Perkins:** *Elms House DDP/ISL Assistant.* Tyrone was hired just a few short months ago in November 2012. He stepped-up in a big way and has made a huge difference with the ISL program and came in ready to roll with Elms house.

**Stephanie Moss:** *Agency Nurse.* Stephanie came to CDD in November 2012 and has taught the agency a lot about the kind of nursing care we need. She also started doing training classes.

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:

CDD Donor Account  
1010 W 39th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Log on to our Web site at [www.cddkc.org](http://www.cddkc.org) to check us out.

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



Winter 2013

**CELEBRATIONS**

**WINTER BITS AND PIECES**

**Dixie Stampede, Elvis, Threwed Rolls and More Individuals from Elms, Cedars and Sycamore Homes take a trip to Branson, Mo.**

In the heart of the cold winter days, Tina of Elms, Eddie, Charlie and Pam of Cedars and Steven, Paul, Carl and James B. of Sycamore and staff at the homes took a mini weekend jaunt out of town to enjoy the sites and activities in Branson, Mo.

The group took off on a Friday and made the trek as far as possible stopping at Lambert's Café, "The Only Home of Threwed Rolls," on the way to the entertainment city.

Steven and James at Sycamore both agreed that Lambert's Cafe was a highlight of the trip. According to Anissa, Manager at Sycamore, many individuals loved the meal at Lambert's.

Once the group arrived in Branson, they spent time shopping at a giant dollar store, the Tanger Outlet Mall in the area, as well as several western-style stores.

Pam of Cedars said she enjoyed the trip as well. Her favorite parts were the shows and outlet mall.

"I liked the Dixie Stampede and the shopping part," she said.

To go along with the country/western theme, the individuals got the chance to go to Silver Spur Western Wear Store. Paul of Sycamore's favorite part was the western wear-themed store.

"Oh boy, look at all these boots and leather jackets" he said when he walked into the store.

Anissa said he purchased many items such as cowboy hats, belt buckles and cologne to complete his cowboy wardrobe.

Aside from all the shopping and the Dixie Stampede show, the individuals also saw several celebrity impersonators such as Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis and The Rat Pack at the Legends Theater. Eddie of Cedars house thoroughly enjoyed the George Strait impersonator. Brad, Manager at Cedars, said Eddie is a huge fan of the country music singer.



Steven, James B., Paul and Carl of Sycamore hold on to their souvenirs as they come out of the Dixie Stampede show. Individuals from Cedars and Elms House joined them at the show in Branson.

One activity Pam looked forward to doing was seeing a movie and she said she was disappointed that the group ran out of time for that. Pam said she had fun on the trip and would go back if she got the opportunity again.

Carl of Sycamore agreed with Pam on returning to the entertainment city.

"I want to go back to Branson again this year," he said when he returned.

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**Contributing Writers**

- Kelsey Brazelton (Editor)
- Jim Johnson
- Tanya Gardner
- Della McLaughlin



**WINTER EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES**

**1 Year**

- Morgan Brown
- Rashawnda Byers
- Bridgette Frye
- Barbara Payne
- Tashawnda Rideau
- Darryl Williams
- Rebecca Rose
- Courtney Byars
- Nicole Henson
- Michelle Roberson

**2-5 years**

- Doug Burks (2)
- Rhonda Childress (2)
- Johnny Thompson (3)
- Keya Landis (3)
- Bobby Peabody (3)
- Mary Mitchell (4)
- Marcella Shelton (4)
- Donald Stepeson (5)
- Sharon Roland (5)

**6-9 Years**

- Solomon Onyemenam (6)
- Bertha Brown (8)

**10+ Years**

- Brenda Davis (12)
- Brenda Williams (16)

**SUPER BOWL PARTY**

**Game Day Pride  
Elms House individuals throw a Super Bowl Party**

Every year millions of football fans gather around their TVs to witness the biggest game of the NFL season. This year the teams battling it out were the Baltimore Ravens and the San Francisco 49ers. And of course there were commercials in there too, but it seemed as though the individuals cared more about the game.

Staff and individuals at Elms House are big football fans and they took it upon themselves to have the party of the year to celebrate the Super Bowl. Staff member, Betty Webb brought in homemade fried chicken for everyone. She also made Rotel dip, seven layer dip, little smokies and chocolate cake to top off the goodies.

Michelle Cropp, Live-in staff, reported that the crowd thoroughly enjoyed the food and the party. Manager Della McLaughlin said the staff were as much in to the game as the residents, cheering loudly for a touchdown.

Aside from the game, Tony Flowers' favorite part of the event was the halftime show with singer Beyonce.

"I liked Beyonce's dance," he said with the biggest smile on his face.

John D. is a huge KC Chiefs fan, and despite the fact that they did not make it to the big game, he cheered loudly for the Ravens. He was joined by housemate Michael Pappas who was excited to see the 49ers lose.

"It's about time that someone beat the 49ers at the Super Bowl," Michael said after they lost.

Someone who wanted to see the 49ers win was Roger Knox, but he still had a good time at the party. He cheered for the team despite the harsh criticism from his housemates.

"We had an awesome party," he said. "I was going for the 49ers, but they didn't make it."



Roger smiles even though his team didn't win the game. He and many of his housemates cheered for the Ravens and the San Francisco 49ers.

**VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY**

**Love is All You Need  
Individuals from Cedars and Elms Homes celebrate Valentine's Day**

Love was in the air at Cedars House on Valentine's Day as individuals from Elms House joined the celebration of the most romantic day of the year. As guests arrived, Eddie Nichols greeted any woman who attended with a chocolate rose. A trail of rose petals and white confetti continued through the home as a pathway towards the activities to come.

Decorations of ribbons were hung along with hearts from the ceiling, teddy bears and loveable stuffed bumble bees filled the room with joy as the party began. Individuals also had the opportunity to get their photos taken in a picture scene as if going to a sweetheart dance with a fancy backdrop. The individuals considered this a highlight of the night.

The night carried on with games such as Bingo, musical chairs, guessing how many hearts were in a jar and a dance contest. Eddie was a judge for the dance contest and Nikki of Cedars handed out Valentine's hearts filled with candy to all the men in the room.

All the dancing and game playing worked up

an appetite for everyone. There was no shortage of food and goodies to eat for the celebration. Sweets included cupcakes, cookies, candy goodie bags and a chocolate fountain. Other fare included Rotel dip, chicken cacciatore, shrimp cocktails, chips and dip and much more. No one went hungry that night.

As the evening grew to a close, Nikki finished handing out her Valentine's Day hearts to all the men and Eddie gave each woman whom he might have missed a chocolate rose for the road.

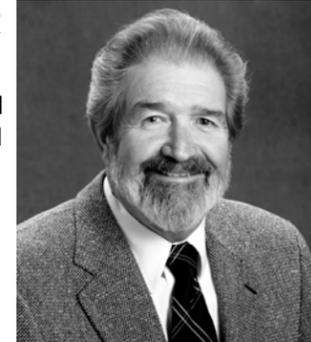
No one left the party that evening without something in hand to show they were loved by someone, albeit housemates or neighbors, but love surrounded everyone at Cedars House on Valentine's Day.



Nikki of Cedars and Tony of Elms bust a move in the dance contest. Many individuals from both homes celebrated Valentine's Day.



**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Jim Johnson**



Greetings. This Winter edition of CELERATIONS wraps up 2012 recreation and travel and covers some initial activities this year. It was a very active year for recreation and we thank our donors for making much of it possible. We look ahead to F.Y. 2013-14 with sufficient optimism especially because 2012 was so good to us in many ways. Though we have had several significant years of expansion in the 29 years I've been with the agency, 2012 produced the largest budget increase of all of them. It is truly a privilege to be in a leadership position with this mature service organization.

At 67, I could be persuaded to slow down and maintain the status quo, but with our upper managers' persuasion and enthusiasm, I just haven't been able to resist seizing doable opportunities that have come our way. CDD has really been on the move. I wish I could say it's keeping me younger. Time marches on, so that is not the case. I have however been able to maintain the pace that our younger leaders expect of me. If there is anything I feel comfortable about as my career of 37 years in the field eventually fades into the twilight of retirement, it is that I have located and developed staff who can run this agency for a long period of time without my involvement. I'm not leaving town or anything, but it is a very reassuring feeling to know that this agency has a life of its own and will live on long after my career ends. In 2013, I'm a pretty happy Executive Director.

We like to share our recreational events with our readers, but most of us also greatly enjoy our involvement in day-to-day service delivery. We are now providing housing, transportation and an array of life care services to 104 individuals. Our staff roster has grown from about 125 a year ago to around 160 today. We have a huge payroll and enormous record keeping responsibilities. Fortunately, we have veteran office staff with sufficient skills and the ability to stay abreast of technology, and put it to use to accomplish our business requirements. Because of these competencies, we have added only a half-time position to keep up with the workload from our expansion. Staff growth has been in strengthening our program management capacity and developing an "army" of staff who deliver daily personal care services and the additional supports necessary to access and integrate the community.

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Tina of Elms House sits with her chocolate rose she got from Eddie upon arrival the to Valentine's Day bash. All the women received a rose from Eddie when they arrived.