

FALL 2009

CELEBRATIONS

FALL BITS AND PIECES

Weekend Getaway

For some residents at Elms House, what began as a simple E-mail from Sister Marilyn Ross as she checked on her brother Tom, quickly turned into an invitation for a weekend getaway to Omaha, NE, for Tom and three of his housemates. One Friday in October Tom, Tina, Thylitha and Brian left for Omaha with Manager Veronica Edwards at the helm, and Direct Support Professional, Brenda Williams in the front seat navigating via Mapquest.



Tom, Brian, Tina, and Sister Marilyn wait to begin their excursion to Omaha.

The Ross family made sure it was a weekend to remember for not only Tom, but for others from Elms House. They stayed at Mercy Lodge that Veronica described as beautiful, comfortable and peaceful with a surrounding lake. Sister Marilyn prepared all of the meals that weekend. Veronica said she was not only an excellent cook, but she was the perfect hostess and guide around Omaha.

They went to the IMAX Theater at Omaha's world-renowned zoo to see *Safari* the movie in 3D, that had the residents reaching out to touch the animals. Veronica said gasps could be heard as a lion seemed to walk up to residents baring large, razor-sharp teeth with each step bringing him closer and closer to the audience.

Veronica said because of the generous nature of the Ross family, Tom and his friends were able to experience a wonderful weekend away from life at Elms House.

To Branson in Style

Staff at Summit and Villas Apartments took seven residents for a three-day, two-night excursion to Branson, MO, in September. On the way, they stopped at Lambert's Café in Springfield, MO, Lambert's is also known as "The Only Home of Thrown Rolls." Staff at the restaurant throw rolls at customers to see how many they can catch.

Once in Branson, everyone settled into their motel rooms and went swimming in the motel pool racing to see who could swim the longest and fastest. The next day was spent shopping at the outlet mall and arts and crafts stores. The crew ate at a restaurant called Starvin' Marvin's where entertainers from some of the local shows sang to the customers while they ate.

A highlight of the trip was the Dixie Stampede, a show where actors and actresses re-enact events from the Civil War Era. The residents ate a meal while watching the show that was served "southern campfire style," without silverware.



Paul M., Tony D., Donald C. and David W. enjoy their time by the pool in Branson.

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Contributing Writers

- Kelsey Garrison (Editor)
- Jim Johnson
- Veronica Edwards
- Sarah Mudd
- Jody Michael



FALL EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

1 Year

LaTeasha Randle
 Tammy Parison
 Denisa Fields
 Charla Hardin
 Lillie Williams

2-5 years

Joyce Davis (2)
 Angela Ricks (2)
 Jamie McMickle (2)
 Nora Wynn (2)
 Shelia Cross (3)
 Tyla Smith (4)
 Felicia Jones (4)
 EJ Navarrete (5)

6-9 Years

Yvonne Tyler (8)

10+ Years

Carmen Jordan (12)
 Loren Albright (16)
 Doris McGowin (13)
 Jim Johnson (26)

CDD OBITUARIES

Michael Haseltine

written by Jim Johnson

Many of us in Jackson County experienced a sad shock recently with the sudden death of Michael Haseltine. Michael was the Deputy Director of EITAS. Several of us at CDD have worked closely with him for a decade, and we all had our own individual relationships with Michael. We can say he was person who willingly listened to us. We've worked through many service delivery and funding problems over the years. Michael would consider my suggestions and tolerate my gripes and frustrations. He always seemed glad to hear from me even when he knew I was calling with some troubling matter or just venting about a frustration with the system. I did end all conversation very appreciative that he took time to listen. The management staff at this agency all recognized his support for our various programs.

I only knew Michael vocationally and professionally. After his death I learned about his extensive family life, the scope of which was delightful to hear and read about. I returned from his funeral with some regret that I had not gotten to know him better. Michael Haseltine moved to the next emanation on November 4, 2009. He was 58.

Cheryl Sanders

08/09/54 – 11/06/09

On November 6, 2009, Cheryl Sanders passed away. Cheryl was a resident at Lafayette Manor for the past nine years. Cheryl had a feisty personality and always had a word to say to everyone she met. She loved the color pink and truly enjoyed completing latch hook projects. She enjoyed celebrating her birthday and being around her family both at Lafayette and in her home town of Concordia, MO. Cheryl will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Rosland Watson

02/17/69 – 10/29/09

On October 29, 2009, Rosland Watson passed away. Rosland began her part-time employment with CDD in August 2008. Rosland enjoyed her work and always had a friendly smile for those who graced her presence. Our sincere wishes go out to her family and Rosland will be missed by those who knew her.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Justin Bancroft moved into the new Summit Apartments in August after waiting patiently for six months for the apartments to open. He had been living with a roommate in Lee's Summit, Mo., prior to moving into his own apartment. Justin had dreams of finding a job and felt that moving to Kansas City provided more employment opportunities for him. In September, Justin's dream of finding employment came closer to reality.

Lafarge Concrete Company called CDD and requested help in finding someone who could assist them with hiring a person with a disability to direct visitors and contractors at the job site. Lafarge's belief that economic growth cannot happen without social progress, environmental protection and respect for local communities is what lead Lafarge representative, Doug Berger, to call CDD. Mr. Berger's willingness to consider someone with a disability is illustrated in this belief.

Justin interviewed for the Safety Visitor Inspector position at Lafarge. He was hired and began his employment on October 7. He ensures that everyone has a safety vest, hard hat, safety glasses, gloves and they have proper I.D. before being allowed onto the property. If they do not, he provides these to the guests. Justin also provides safety instructions and directs people to the area they need to go.





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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jim Johnson

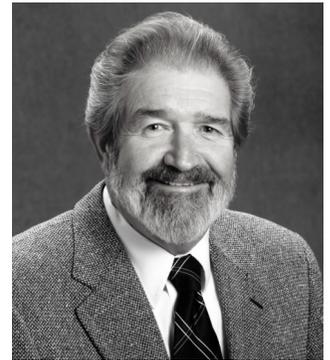
Greetings from CDD. In reviewing the content of our fourth edition of CELERATIONS this year, I noticed myself listed on the quarterly Employee Anniversary roster. On October 31st, I completed my 26th year. The surprising thing is how short it seems. Most of the job has been fun. In reviewing the fall fun activities, and accomplishments of residents, I am reminded why the job is gratifying.

A couple of things I have not worried much about in my first 25 years were sufficient revenue to meet expenses, as well as generating enough surplus to keep our services and operations growing. However, starting the latter half of 2008, and all of this year, revenue shortages have been a fairly persistent worry. Our business challenges are of course similar to millions of small businesses in this struggling economy. Our concerns at CDD are shared by our entire service industry in Missouri that functions under state contracts.

You will notice on page four that we are reporting 15 vacancies. We have some weak cost-centers due to vacancies. If we could have opened our Summit Apartments 14 to 16 months earlier, we would likely have it filled with new residents. As

you are aware, Missouri tax revenues, and county mill levies are quite low compared to a year ago, and projections suggest revenues will fall further in 2010. In 2006 when we were awarded \$1.5 million from HUD to develop more housing to expand our community living capacity, we envisioned that this would be a great asset to our agency, our funding agencies, and to this community. However, our current resident capacity of 104 could become a liability. We will do our best not to shrink our capacity, but we are uncertain today if we can prevent it.

Enclosed is a flier advertising our lovely new Summit Apartments which still have seven vacancies. Please share the flier with someone who may want a new supported living home with us. Thanks again to our donors this year. We have reported our travel and recreation activities in all four of our editions. Many of our CELERATIONS readers have helped us fund those activities.



Paul and Tommy pose in the picture scene at the talent show.



Joe accepts the Villas Apartments' award at the talent show.



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



CDD Talent Show

Family and friends gathered in the fall-theme decorated Roanoke Community Center gym to watch residents dance, sing and tell jokes for the annual Talent Show in October.

Residents from many of the homes and apartments entertained the audience of staff, family and friends with dances and singing renditions of Michael Jackson's "Beat It," and "Thriller," and James Brown's "I Feel Good," and much more. One resident chose to tell jokes to get the audience to laugh and another chose to read a thank you speech. There were also a few residents who were not scheduled to be in the show, and jumped in to give a performance of their own.

Along with the singing, dancing, joke telling and speech giving, the residents were able to get their pictures taken at the harvest-theme picture scene created by Jody Michael from the Villas.

At the end of the evening, those who performed and those who cheered everyone on, received awards.



Bill gets his groove on to Michael Jackson.

CDD has fifteen resident openings in our homes. We are also now taking applications for our new complex, Summit Apartments, which opened August 1, 2009. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a resident with our agency, please contact us.

We also have employment opportunities available. If you are a caring, responsible individual who is interested in becoming a part of CDD, 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:

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

OR log on to our website at www.cddkc.org

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