

Spring 2010

CELEBRATIONS

SPRING BITS AND PIECES

Disability Education

Summit Resident educates local students on his disability

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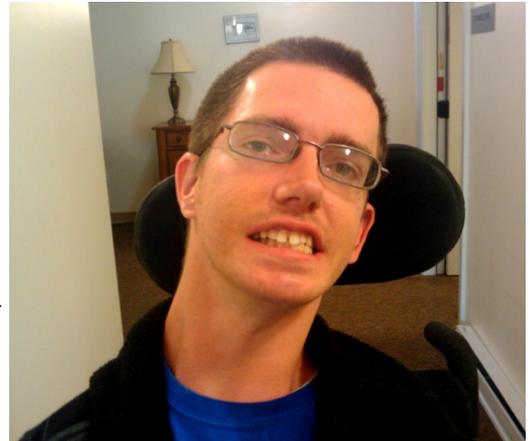
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In March, Adam Dame had the opportunity to speak with some 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from the Independence, Missouri School District. There, the students were learning about developmental disabilities. Adam jumped at the chance to speak to them about his life.

The day before he was to give his presentation, Adam said he was so excited about speaking to the students.

"Kids see me out all the time in my wheelchair and they stare," he said. "It isn't that they stare that bugs me. It's that they are scared to get to know me as a person, not as something strange in this chair. This is my chance to let them know that I'm a normal guy. I tell jokes, I love doing the same things they do, I cry, I have feelings, I can talk and I like making new friends."



Adam Dame sits in his wheelchair that gets him around his Summit Apartment. Adam talked to students at a local middle school about people with disabilities.

Adam went on to claim he is better with wheels than the students are on foot.

"Besides I can outrun any of them in this wheelchair any day," he said.

After the presentation, Adam mentioned he was happy about how the children accepted him being there to teach students about his disability.

"It was fantastic," he said with a big grin on his face.

He said there were several children who came up to him afterward and wanted to shake his hand. Adam said several of them talked to him about his chair and wanted to touch it and see how it worked. He went on to say it really made him feel good because the stares that he normally receives from children their age had turned into curiosity and an opportunity for them to learn from him.

Adam said what he thought the children learned from him and that many people have disabilities. They just might be more common than we think.

"Everybody has some kind of disability, some people wear glasses, some people wear hearing aids, some people can't spell well or do well in math, some, like me, are in wheelchairs," Adam said. "But no matter what, we are all people, despite what our disabilities are, we are all still human beings with the same needs."

He then went on to say what he thought those needs were.

"To be treated all the same," Adam said. "I don't want people to feel sorry for me, to baby me or treat me different. I just want them to see past this wheelchair and treat me just like they would anyone else they met for the first time."



SPRING EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

1 Year

- Resha Mansfield
- Rebecca Watson
- Sheritha Webb

2-5 years

- Erin Kleyh (2)
- Neeta Rajkanan (2)
- Janice Weldon (3)
- Osa Sanders (3)
- Tiffany Burnett (3)
- Arthur Mourning (4)

6-9 Years

- Patrick Ukecha (6)
- Jody Michael (8)
- Regina Mann (8)

10+ Years

- Sarah Mudd (14)
- Jenny Kemp (20)

STAFF/RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

And the Winners Are...

A resident and staff member receive awards

Debbie Kline walks through life leaving footprints of care wherever she goes. She is known as the social butterfly of Kinbrook. Debbie saw a need for more social experiences for herself and her peers. For these reasons, EITAS honored Debbie by presenting her with the Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Debbie took it upon herself to come up with a solution to provide more experiences. She put together a schedule of Bingo games and began inviting not just other residents at Kinbrook, but all of the residents in our Grandview homes as well as family and friends from outside the agency. An evening of Bingo with Debbie is fast paced, fun and full of forging or deepening friendships. They are also learning opportunities for everyone.

Among her humanitarian ways, Debbie is also the birthday guru. Not a single resident or staff could silently eek by a birthday without a full celebration including cake, ice cream, balloons, fun and friendship because Debbie knows when every-one's birthday is and makes sure the day is cele-

brated with style. Debbie constantly comes up with ideas to celebrate life and make other residents' quality of life a little better. She celebrates her staff's lives as well and makes everyone a little happier.

As mentioned before, Debbie leaves her footprints in time and on people's hearts wherever she goes and with whatever she does. Congratulations Debbie.



Bertha Brown and Debbie Kline receive Humanitarian and Honorable mention awards at the EITAS Awards Dinner. Both women were excited.

Bertha Brown, one of the Programmers at Kinbrook, received an honorable mention for her service and gentle ways with the residents. Bertha is the ideal role model for all direct care staff. She stretches herself in all directions to make sure the residents have a quality life. She introduces them to experiences they would not have otherwise.

Bertha recognizes that people needing support are more likely to fulfill their dreams if they have well-trained, experienced and motivated people at their side in long-term, stable compatible support relationships. She is a long-term employee who stays abreast of current trainings and uses her natural caring and gentle ways to help the residents become all they can be. Congratulations to the two big winners.

STAFF/RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Staying Healthy

Staff and Resident Learn Ways to Be Healthier

For the past couple months, CDD staff member Marilyn Smith and Villas resident Margie Olson attended a seminar titled, "Let's Be Healthy" facilitated by Amanda George of Helen Sanderson and Associates USA to learn methods to motivate men and women to lead healthier lifestyles.

In the seminar, they were taught how to educate people on the choices they have to get their health needs met in the medical field including what their own responsibilities are for maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

To be a "Let's Be Healthy" facilitator, each person is asked to make a commitment to not only teach others what they have learned, but to also be a role model for the people they teach. Marilyn has committed to quit smoking and Margie has committed to start learning more about how to talk frankly with her doctor about medical needs and concerns.

Starting in June, Marilyn and Margie will put into practice what they have learned in "Let's Be Healthy" training sessions at CDD's Summit Apartments. All CDD residents and staff will be invited to attend. They will offer one session each month for eight months. In the sessions, participants will be able to design their own health plan and goals they would like to reach.

They will learn about foods that promote a healthy diet, things they can discuss with their doctors to ensure their physical needs are being met, ways to stay safe in the communities they live and work in and how to meet emotional needs by using methods to relax.

Congratulations to Marylyn and Margie for being committed to this endeavor.



Marilyn and Margie hold up their "Let's Be Healthy" Books. Both have committed to leading a healthier lifestyle.



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Jim Johnson

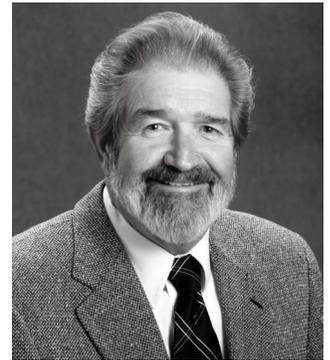
Greetings. The spring edition of CELERATIONS has always been the issue I choose to comment on the outcomes of our legislative sessions. The second session of the 95th General Assembly adjourned on May 14th. It was a frustrating four-and-a-half months for our lawmakers, leaving us with less to report than any year I can remember. There were nearly 2,000 piece of legislation filed with only 106 bills passed. So, my comments need not be lengthy. The budget was agreed to passed to Governor Nixon a week early this session. We know that with state revenue projections still getting worse, our eyes will be on the Governor who is constitutionally required to balance the state's budget. Governor Nixon has 14 appropriation bills to sign by July 14th, but also with the discretion to trim them back if need be. Some of our future is now resting on his desk.

We knew well before January there would be no money for expansion or rate increases, much less a C.O.L.A., but Missouri is now struggling to pay for the core basics. State agencies are facing layoffs and cutbacks. This agency, as well as the state's provider network, had practice in 2009 dealing with challenging economic times. This year we may be in the midst of a fiscal crisis. CDD has made discretionary cuts to keep all homes and programs operating. I am proud of how well we have done. The fiscally lean times we faced all of last year will very likely continue well into 2012. CDD is now planning on how we will make additional cuts and courageously face these unprecedented times. Several of us are consumed with those responsibilities right now. But there is a future, and we fully expect to be a

participant.

This is an election year for all 163 members of the House of Representatives. We will lose 52 experienced members of the House and 10 Senators to term limits. It is projected that the 96th General Assembly will begin on January 5, 2011 with 90 new members of the legislature. Most of those officials will have never heard of us, have little knowledge of what we do, and virtually no idea how services to persons with developmental disabilities are funded. This is why we are so involved in the state capitol and dare not ever be less involved. We are in the human services business, but also very much in the business of public education. We have done a good job at it, and you can be assured we will continue doing so.

Okay, that's enough about Missouri politics and our business worries. As you can see from this edition, we have worthy news to share with our readers. There are a lot of positive things going on in 2010, so read on. Also in the very near future, we will have a new position to fill in our office, so I will end this and move on to that story. It's interesting. Please read the lower half of this page.



22-Year Legacy Operations Director Retires

Somewhat to our surprise, CDD will be closing a chapter in its history this year. Well into his 22nd year with the agency, Operations Director, John Marshall, will launch himself into retirement in July 2010. I met John in early 1988 when he cautiously, but with curiosity, answered an ad for the job he now holds. CDD had experienced considerable turn over in our accounting positions, but after several interviews, we settled on John and many of you know the rest of the story.

Of course, at the time we were one of the more sophisticated agencies with our accounting system on an enhanced Apple II+ computer. To my surprise, I soon learned that John was not that impressed and he had us converted to the IBM Micro-soft world in just a few months. By 1989, John brought all HUD project accounting in-house and strengthened our internal control procedures to the point that we stopped getting recommendations from our auditors. This agency still can boast of its superb level of compliance with Gener-

ally Accepted Accounting Principles. In 1990, John negotiated a lease on new office space and we proudly re-established ourselves on Broadway. He also developed our retirement benefits that year and will soon be taking advantage of it in his new after-CDD life.

I am told space is limited for this announcement, but I must summarize additional business accomplishments on John's part that really made us a new agency. In 1994, John and I proudly opened our first HUD, Section 811 apartment project in Kansas City, Kansas. In 1995 John persuaded me, and the Board of Directors, to purchase our own office space. We still enjoy occupying that building on West 39th Street. The next year, 1997, we opened another Section 811 at 1300 E. Armour in Kansas City, Missouri.

To accommodate our aging population, John played a significant role in negotiating the purchase of a large and nearly new ranch-style home in Grandview, Missouri. It still serves 10 of our retirees. In 2001, we opened our third Section 811 project in Grandview. Jumping to John's last major role in development, we opened our fourth Section 811 apartments in August 2009, just east of downtown.

So there you have some of the career highlights in a legacy that will live on after my own retirement as well. I did remind John that by retiring in July, he will miss the agency's 10th accreditation survey. John will skip this one with no regrets.

Though space is somewhat limited, this office will be open to John's friends and business acquaintances to celebrate his years with CDD. The agency will sponsor a reception in John's honor from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Friday, July 16th; come by and toast Mr. Marshall's final day on the job.



John sits at his desk working on paperwork. He will complete his tenure on July 16.



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

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DEVELOPMENTALLY
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Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County



EITAS Invites Everyone
The Annual EITAS Dinner brings many agencies together

Television and film portray "super heroes" as people who possess uncanny abilities when responding to a crisis.

In real life, superheroes aren't wearing masks or capes. At the annual EITAS Awards Dinner held on April 27th they were adorned in ties and sports coats, dresses and pant suits. The EITAS staff welcomed representatives from many agencies and individuals served by EITAS.

The EITAS dinner is a time when the unsung heroes are recognized for their good deeds and services. We hear all the time that people who feel appreciated are more positive about themselves and their ability to contribute. Every year EITAS provides just such an atmosphere for individuals with developmental disabilities, the staff who serve them and elected officials who work relentlessly on their behalf. It is a wildly popular event and this year was no exception.

CDD residents enjoy attending this event and look forward to dressing up, dining with old and current friends and they always seem to meet new ones at this dinner. However, it is not the food (while it is scrumptious) that is the enticer to the event. It is really the opportunity for everyone to applaud those individuals with a developmental disability, staff, politicians or programs who exemplify all we strive for in this field. It is a time to join the rest of the community in recognizing how valuable these individuals are. Hats go off to EITAS for providing such a special occasion for everyone.



Resident Marguerite and Staff member Charla enjoy the EITAS Dinner. They were among the CDD people who attended the celebration.

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.

We also have employment opportunities available including an opening for Operations Director. For that position, inquire with Jim Johnson or Jenny Kemp. 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:

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Kansas City, MO 64111**

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