

ADVOCACY IN ACTION NEWS

Volume I, Issue III

August 2006

PEOPLE FIRST-USO VOLUNTEER PROJECT



People First Advisor Kristal Kent, People First volunteers; Jessica Norwood, Linda Dunger and Marleen Clark

Each year People First of Cuyahoga County participates in a variety of volunteer projects to give back to the community. This year, one of our projects was to give time, energy and money to support the mission of the USO.

On July 19th at the USO Armory in North Canton, People First volunteers donated 100 bags filled with snack items and assembled care packages for our soldiers overseas. In addition to preparing the care packages, a check was presented to the USO for the cost of shipping 100 care packages. People First of Cuyahoga County is proud to have been a part of the USO mission and contribute their effort, time and money to positively impact the lives of U.S. soldiers. The USO is a non-profit organization.

People First meets the third Monday of each month at the Independence Civic Center from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The focus of each meeting includes volunteerism, community supports and public awareness. For questions, contact Kristal Kent, advisor and CMR Advocacy Coordinator.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR Thursday, October 4th, 2006

The Three "P's" of the IEP Process

A three part workshop reviewing the three "P's" of the Individual Education Plan (IEP): **PREPARATION, PLANNING AND PARTICIPATION**

6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.
Independence Civic Center
6363 Selig Boulevard
Independence, Ohio
Cost: FREE/ Registration required
Refreshments provided

Session one will review the Preparation Phase of an IEP (Individual Education Plan) meeting.

- Learn how to prepare for the IEP meeting.
- Identify what documents, goals and ideas to review.

Dates for future workshop sessions January and March 2007 will be announced in the next newsletter.

Board Appointments

CMR is pleased to announce the addition of three individuals to its Board of Directors. Joining the CMR Board as new trustees are **Dr. Jonathan P. Lehman**, Clinical Psychologist, **Sanford C. Trado**, CPA CBIZ Accounting Tax & Advisory of Ohio, LLC and **Daniel F. Waldeck**, Senior Vice President, Regional Manager Corporate Banking National City.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Executive DirectorPage 2
Cornucopia HelpsPage 3
Baker Memorial WalkPage 3
CMR ThanksPage 4

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:



Congratulations to the Partners in Policymaking® Class of 2006!

Thank you to our outstanding speakers and collaborative partners for their support of time, talent and resources. Thank you most especially to Terri McIntee Larenas, Partners Alumnus, for her dedication and leadership in assistance and facilitation of the class of 2006.

The inaugural class of 2006 is the first ever Northeast Ohio delegation of Partners in Policymaking®. Partners in Policymaking® is a leadership training program designed for adults with disabilities and for parents of young children with disabilities. The purpose of the program is twofold: To teach best practices in disability, and the competencies of influencing public officials.

CMR will again facilitate the Partners in Policymaking® leadership training program between January – May 2007. We are currently seeking participants for the class of 2007. Local parents and self advocates interested in participating in this internationally recognized training series should apply. For application materials, call the CMR office.

Mission Statement Class of 2006

We are people first who are parents, advocates, friends, professionals, teachers, and students. Through teamwork we are a voice and a messenger united to make a better future for people with disabilities by changing history, improving and changing systems, and promoting rights and freedoms for individuals with disabilities. We value life, family, independence, choice, respect, education and dignity.

SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to a very generous anonymous donor we were able to provide financial assistance for forty six individuals to attend summer camp programs throughout Northeast Ohio. We received many more applications for financial assistance this year and would like to continue to offer this resource to families again next year. Please consider a donation to CMR's camp scholarship fund. All contributions designated for camp scholarships go directly to the camp that families choose. Camp scholarship applications will be available February 2007.

2006 Partners in Policymaking® Graduates

Courtney Brown-Cheatham, Euclid, Ohio
Marietta Dobbins, Cleveland, Ohio
Michael Drops, Lakewood, Ohio
Paulette Kadis Gaia, Chesterland, Ohio
Amy Hook, Fairview Park, Ohio
Cindi Klimovich, Mentor, Ohio
Gina Mitchner, Brecksville, Ohio
Jessica Norwood, Bedford, Ohio
Randy Pennington, Warrensville Heights, Ohio
Geraldine Rieves, Twinsburg, Ohio
Mike Rich, Mayfield Heights, Ohio
Theresa Thompson, Warrensville Heights, Ohio



EAST SIDE MINISTRY

East Side Ministry, Inc. is an organization of east side churches representing various denominations that offer Sunday morning programs for people with developmental disabilities. The program includes class time with Bible stories, music, crafts and seasonal celebrations. There is also time to participate in the morning worship and fellowship opportunities with the host church. Volunteers staff the classes, which are held from October 1st. through May.

Currently the teen group meets at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights. Adults groups are at Church of the Saviour in Cleveland Heights, First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland in Shaker Heights, and Lyndhurst Community Presbyterian Church in Lyndhurst.

For more information, please call Lynn Seese, ESM president at 216-932-0105.

CORNUCOPIA HELPS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES PREPARE FOR THE WORLD OF WORK

Cornucopia/Nature's Bin has been successfully providing work adjustment training for people with disabilities since 1975. Today they serve people with a wide range of severe disabilities including mental retardation, developmental disabilities, mental illness, visual and hearing impairments and injuries resulting from accident or illness. Cornucopia's first project was The Bin, a small fresh produce market on Madison Avenue in Lakewood. An average of 12 people with mental retardation trained there each year. Expanding on its already successful model to create an even more flexible and responsive education/training program, The Bin grew into Nature's Bin. Nature's Bin opened at its current location on Sloane Avenue in Lakewood in 1991, and began providing work skills training to 45 individuals per year at this larger, more complete facility. An expansion and



Amy packages produce at Nature's Bin.

renovation of Nature's Bin market in Lakewood was completed in October 2005. The new space has expanded Nature's Bin's capacity to provide work adjustment training and assessments. "We are able to carry a wider variety of natural and specialty groceries, vitamins and supplements, and prepared foods from the deli," commented Executive Director, Scott Duennes. "A larger, busier store also allows us to provide more opportunities for vocational rehabilitation for the clients we serve."

Cornucopia began providing job placement and job coaching services for people with disabilities in 1999. Job placement and job coaching services continue to be available through Cornucopia's administrative office in Lakewood and at their Cornucopia Employment Services office on South Taylor Road in University Heights.

Today, Cornucopia continues to expand its training options with two additional community based training programs in partnership with the Target store in University Heights and The Eliza Jennings Home, part of the Eliza Jennings Senior Care Network on Cleveland's west side. All three of these training locations provide trainees with a variety of different work environments in which to learn valuable skills. Last year Cornucopia served over 250 people with disabilities.

Cornucopia works hand in hand with several referring agencies including Ohio Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, The Cuyahoga County Board of MRDD, The Bureau of Worker's Compensation and several local school districts. If you are interested in the vocational training programs provided by Cornucopia, contact Cornucopia's Vocational Program Director, Ronda Saleem-Mohammad at 216.521.4600.



Nature's Bin is located at 18120 Sloane Avenue in Lakewood.

THIRD ANNUAL BAKER MEMORIAL WALK

The Walk/Expo and Disability Awareness Festival was once again successful. The event was held June 11 at the Brooklyn Senior



Community Center and Memorial Park. This event was created to promote the talent and dedication of people with disabilities while providing access to information so they can live their lives independently. We are grateful to our supporters for this event as well as all the participants and vendors that shared information. Participants walked and rolled through the beautiful Brooklyn Park and enjoyed the entertainment provided by Chris the Magician and Karaoke Station. Lunch and refreshments were enjoyed by individuals and families thanks to Pepsi, American Greetings, Tops, Giant Eagle, Pepperidge Farm and the Brooklyn Wal-Mart. In addition, individuals and families had the opportunity to explore the many program and information tables.

Thank you Mayor Kenneth E. Patton Grand Marshall for the walk and the City of Brooklyn for hosting the event. A special thank you to our emcee Lydia Esparra, news anchor for WKYC channel 3 for her words of encouragement that inspired everyone before and after the walk. Corporate sponsors included The City of Brooklyn, McCarthy, Lebit, Crystal & Liffman Co., L.P.A., Ohio Savings Bank, Douglas Kanoff, Cuyahoga County Board of MR/DD, American Fireworks, Inc., American Metal Recycling Inc., National City Bank, Pepsi, Tower City Center, WKYC, S.A.W. (Solutions At Work)Inc., Vantage Financial/Metdesk and Dr. Robert E. Schweid. A special recognition to the Board of Directors, and volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure a good time was had by all.

CENTER FOR MENTAL RETARDATION

3100 E. 45th Street, Suite 212
Cleveland, OH 44127
Phone: 216-341-5488
Fax: 216-341-5669
Email: cmr-clev@cmr-cleveland.org
Website: cmr-cleveland.org

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OH
Permit No. 176

DONATE
your
CAR



CALL 24hrs/7days
1-877-267-0001

CMR
center for mental retardation

• Help individuals with disabilities
• Get a tax deduction

24-48 hr. pickup

BMT Auto Group, LLC acts as a professional solicitor on behalf of CMR to operate the car donation program.

CMR THANKS ITS GENEROUS DONORS

The Center for Mental Retardation wishes to express its gratitude to the following supporters for their generous donations from April through June, 2006. If your name is incorrect or inadvertently omitted, please contact us so our records can be corrected.

Michael Abbamonte
Doris Baumann
Elbert Bennett
David Blazeyic
Joan Boova
Pat Brady
Bertram Butts
Melissa Carion
Charles Carlen
Michael A. Clegg
Tom Cutler
Commissioner Jimmy Dimora
Mike Diroff
Melody Elmore
Joyce Ely
Mr. and Mrs. Smiley Emanuel
Dave Ertzinger
Junn Fernandez
Linda Frate
Meyyazhagan F. Gangadaran
Nancy Gavalek
Frank Giampapa
Desiree Gorjup
Christopher Grimes
Richard Hansen
HELP Foundation, Inc.
Dianne Himmelman
Marie Hoffman
David Hudson
Matthew Indorf
Norma Kerwin
Michael Key
Mary Klein
John Kovach
Stephanie Lehmann
Gary Linch
Kate Macsuga
Frank Matinski
Leeann Meda
Eileen Mersek
Amy Milner
Dale A. Miller

Ellen B. Minadeo
Doris Mueller
Dorothy Mulford
Manny and Judi Naft
Allan Ochwat
Shelia O'Donnell
Michael Peyton
Frank Pollack
Craig Port
Nancy Prideaux
Robert Raiff
Ann Regan
Bruce Rentsh
Michael Rhodes
Daniel Rice
John Riemenschneider
Mary Alice Rigden
Joanne Rondini
Jaenne Runyon
Peter Rzepka
Melinda Saltz
Dr. Robert Schweid
Donald Sobe
Scott Stephens
Donald Wakelee
Paul Wallace
Phyllis Weenink
Westlake Senior Arts and Crafts
Edward Whatley
Joel and Laverne Whitworth
Richard Wilger
Robert Wilson

In Memory of Russell Hlabse
Ben M. Bonanno

In Memory of Robert McQuown
Thomas S. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Moses
Raymond and Mary Snyder
Joseph A. Zingales

SAVE THE DATE



*The Center for Mental Retardation
presents its First Annual Legacy Luncheon
honoring Clevelanders who have made a
significant impact to improve the lives
of those affected by intellectual disabilities.*

The 2006 Legacy Luncheon
honors the memory of
Edward I. and Fannie L. Baker
co-founders of the ARC of Cuyahoga County
now the Center for Mental Retardation

Wednesday, October 11, 2006 · 12:00 noon
Lockkeepers
8001 Rockside Road (at Canal Road)
Valley View, Ohio

To reserve a table go to www.cmr-cleveland.org
or call Shirley Williams at (216) 341-5488 ext. 15