



The Valley Views

A Newsletter of the Ohio Valley Residential Services, Inc.

Making www.ovrs.org Live

Michael DeFrancesco

The Flip camcorder has simplified making videos. The Flips have one large, red button to turn on and off. My intention was to teach the use of the Flip to interested individuals within OVRs. So, I bought an iMac with its included iMovie software and a couple of Flip camcorders. YouTube here we come! I had the good fortune that two people emerged to give guidance.

Kiu Kiani, a filmmaker himself, first suggested the idea to me. He also recommended **Sam Logulo**, who was working in direct service at one of the homes, and who had a good grasp of the technical skills of video and audio.



It was fun and we produced lots of video...and therein was the growing problem. As Aristotle pointed out, every story needs a beginning, a middle, and an end. Our experience was the videos had a beginning and were endless. Editing, an absolute necessity, was and is the sticking point because of its complexity both for the video and the audio.

At one video class—to help the students learn to focus—I asked **George Timberlake** to draw something on a large piece of paper. Because it was near Thanksgiving, George drew a large dinner table with a whole extended family, which in my mind captured the spirit of what all shared living should be about. Sam took the video material home and edited it. It became clear that we did not have the resources to teach editing, and perhaps a better fit for OVRs was to make public service announcements (PSAs), which would both inform the public of OVRs' services, but additionally make them aware of the services regardless whether it was with OVRs or not. The results of our attempts at producing PSAs can be seen on OVRs' website: www.ovrs.org. Each is only 30 seconds. I hope you can take (literally) a minute or two and view them. If you get a chance, let us know what you think.

Each video opens with: "Life is Good...and even better when sharing with friends." Or, "Life is Good...and even better when you're invited into a loving foster home."

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The Valley Views is published four times a year by **Ohio Valley Residential Services, Inc. (OVRs)**. Designed for OVRs families, consumers, staff, and friends, the newsletter includes articles, training opportunities, and personal stories contributed by OVRs residents, staff, and families.

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Consumer Sites & Programs

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The Valley Views is proud to be the second-best newsletter, because every other newsletter claims to be the best.

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New Respite Service Favorable to Families

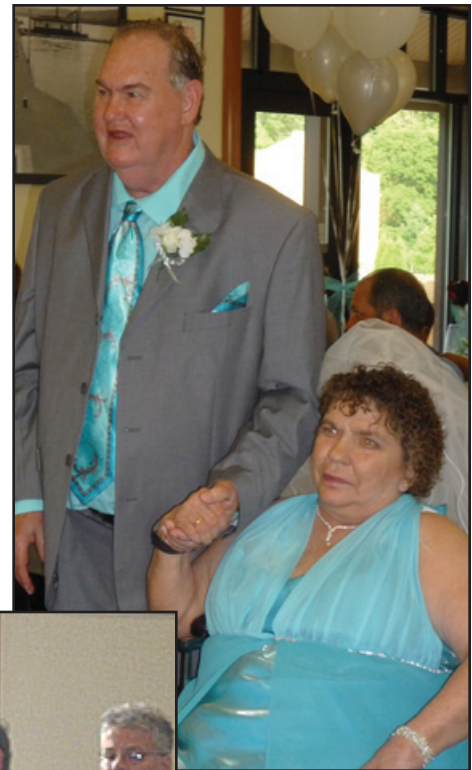
At long last, on July 15, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities will implement the Respite service under the Individual Options (IO) waiver and the Level One waiver. "Respite" means "break," or "time away." The service allows a break mostly for individuals living at home whose family care-takers want or need to get away for a few days. It allows a break both for the individual as well as the family. With fewer long-term housing waivers, respite services offer a much-needed support for families.

Commitment of Companionship

Lawton Keeton and Carolyn Wittkamper have been close friends for 15 years. The past nine years they have lived together in one of the Cheviot apartments. Lawton approached **Cathy Hill**, the home coordinator, to ask if there was a way that they could formally re-commit themselves to each other.

It so happened that an OVRs picnic was planned for June 17 at Fernbank Park on the river. So, all the OVRs party planners—**Priscilla Faux, Karen Burr, Cathy Hill, April Long** and **Dawna Von Trotha**—initiated their plotting and planning. Picnic during the day, and at 6:00 in the evening, a perfect time to hold a look-alike wedding. Lawton and Carolyn wanted to commit themselves to one another for the rest of their lives.

The cast of participants grew by many: friends from OVRs, Jewish Vocational, Goodwill, and Carolyn's sisters—well over 100 witnesses in a touching and memorable event for everyone in attendance, but especially for Lawton and Carolyn.



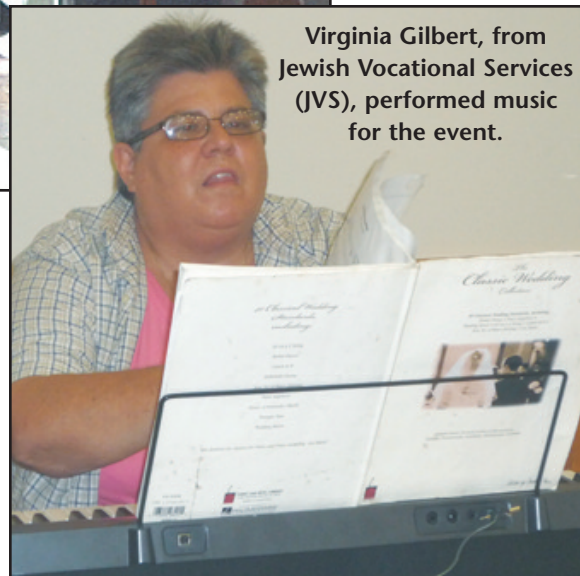
Below: "Father" Michael performed the commitment ceremony.



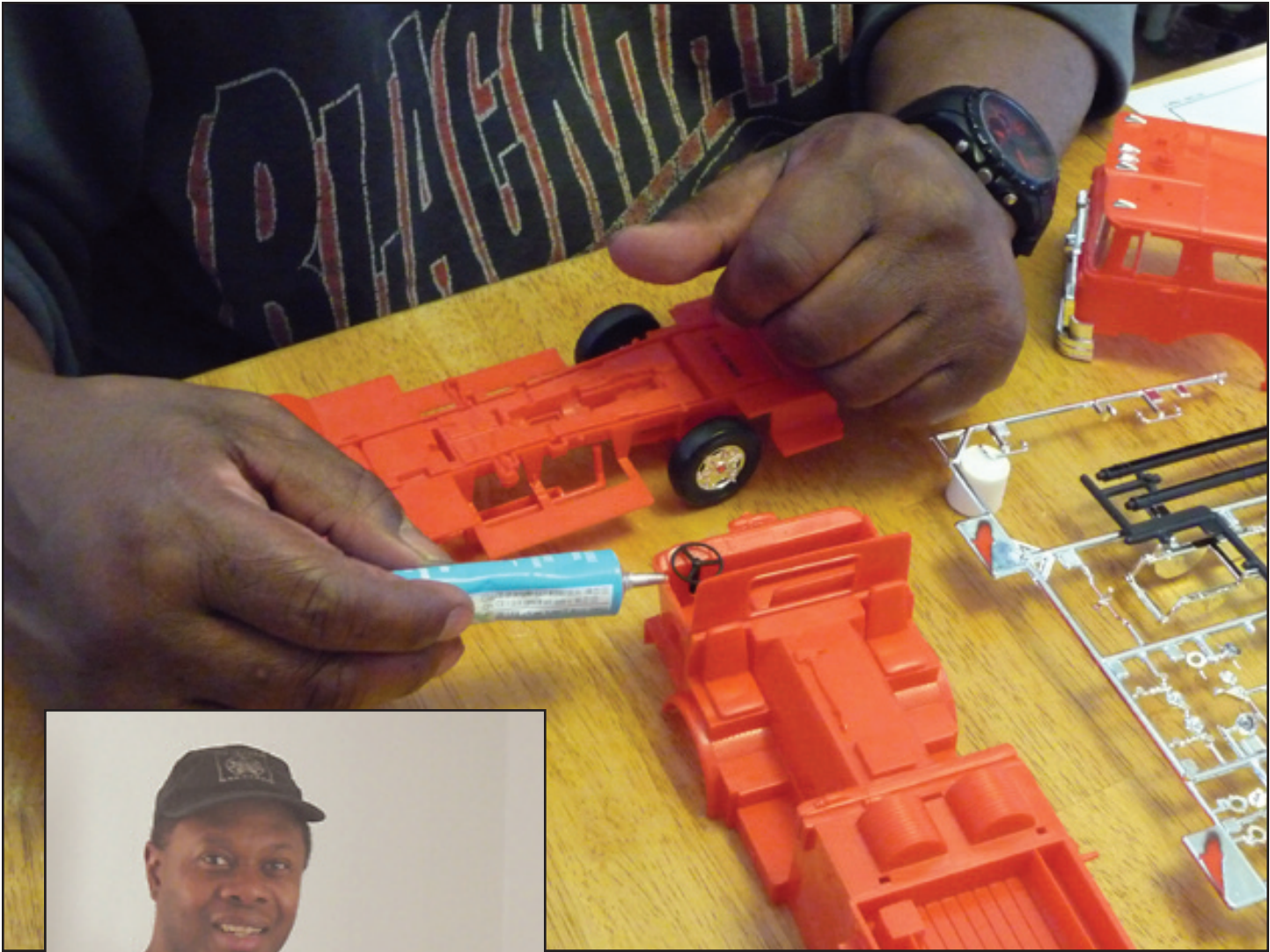
Lawton Keeton and Carolyn Wittkamper re-committed themselves to each other during the June ceremony.



Everyone enjoyed April Long's cake creation.



Virginia Gilbert, from Jewish Vocational Services (JVS), performed music for the event.



Milton does not have any trouble staying busy!

Milton Is a Busy Dude!

Milton is an unassuming gentleman who likes to be busy. One of his hobbies is assembling sports cars and antique models. The Cypress Way staff assist him with directions and fitting pieces together, but he works through each project until the piece is complete.

Milton also enjoys many outdoor sports, including fishing; he recently attended the fishing experience of "no boundaries," where a group of individuals went to Winton Woods to put their lines in.

Milton loves yard work, too. He helps staff cut the grass, rake, and scatter mulch.

He's a cool and collected gentleman...laid back. He enjoys people in small groups. He has lived at Cypress Way for about a year.

Milton works at Cincy Oilers, a worksite where he changes car oil and cleans the interior and exterior of vehicles.

Remembering Those Who have Passed



In recent months, OVRS has suffered the loss of a number of individuals who have lived within the agency's auspices for many years—one person as long as 35 years. **Priscilla Faux** suggested—while none served in the military—that OVRS could use their passing to reflect on their lives on Memorial Day this year. **Roseanne Dickerson** collected and arranged the memorial tribute in the Victory Parkway entrance.

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Community Services Supporting Individuals with Developmental Disabilities in the Home, Community, and in Everyday Choices

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