



The Valley Views

A Newsletter of the Ohio Valley Residential Services, Inc.

December 2011

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
Charlemar, Parkview, Ivanhoe,
Carmel Terrace, Cypress Way,
Ferncroft, North Bend,
Longford, Clovernook,
Woodsfield, Hansford, Lisbon,
Meyerhill, Brookforest,
Epworth Court, Galbraith,
Strifler, Montgomery, Cheviot
Apartments, Faircrest, Foster
Settings, and Supported Living

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

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The Cocoa and Whipped Cream Was So Tasty

Tina Stoeberl has imaginatively put together a most pleasant place to visit to enjoy a tasty cup of coffee or other savory beverage. The College Hill Coffee Co. and Casual Gourmet sit on the corner of Hamilton Avenue and North Bend. Tina has assembled sitting areas and niches both with dining room chairs and stuffed chairs, books, soaps, curios, and a counter of deliciously attractive soups, scones, rolls, chocolates, and pies. The Christmas decorations and lights all contribute to an unstated sign that says, "Welcome."

Less than a block away is the North Bend apartment building where six individuals live –all assisted in some measure by OVRs. Several have visited the coffee shop many times over the years. Curiously, Tina mentioned she used to see on the street one of the gentleman from the apartments and he would always ask her if she liked cartoons.

As a part of the agency's interest in developing a catalogue of public service announcements (PSAs), Tina was approached about taking some video in her establishment with some members of the North Bend apartments. She kindly accommodated the request. On Friday November 18, Joe Greer, Kay Lewis, Barb Braden, and Tom Eagen participated in making a video. They left their building, walked up the street to the coffee house, entered, took their seats, and ordered cocoa. Cameraman Sam Logulo captured the foursome and will eventually work his editing skills for the finished product.



Tom Eagen, Joe Greer, Kay Lewis, and Barb Braden sipping cocoa and relaxing during their video session.

Celebrating the Holidays with Art



George Timberlake wishes all a Happy New Year!

It's the Ornament Season

A couple of years ago, Priscilla Faux suggested an idea for the Christmas season: a competition among the home-sites for making an ornament which generally reflects the individuals and their experiences during the year. So, this year there are three early examples from three sites. (The word "ornament" has taken on a whole different meaning with these "exhibits.")



Cheviot

The creative juices for the ornament from the Cheviot apartments was led by staff Desiree Sockrider and Marshea Harper and assisted by several other tenants. It cleverly depicts several events of the past year: marriage vows of Lawton Keeton and Carolyn Wittkamper, a picnic, a trip to a beach park, as well as other fun activities. It even lights up.



Eppworth

The Eppworth ornament was largely the product of two staff members: Tysheina Burton and Shameka Clark in collaboration with the ladies who live there. The trip to Myrtle Beach this past summer was fun and obviously memorable; all thought it was worthy of their holiday expression. The center of the ornament is a Christmas tree made out of sea shells.



Faircrest

Carol Barker was the principal imagination behind the Faircrest ornament. She has worked at the apartment building for a number of years—long enough to know its feel, culture, and ambiance. All the current tenants are featured on the center ice rink. On either corner stand two angels with the images of Frank McMorrow and Cheryl Buster, both of whom died this past year.

Riddle Exhibits in Washington, DC

by Pamela Myricks

Barbara Riddle's artwork, "Obama," was on exhibit at Art Enables in Washington, DC from October 15 to 28. The exhibition, "A Sampling From Outside the Beltway," was a national survey of artwork from programs around the country. Barbara has been making art, which often includes poetry, since 2001 when she moved to Terrace Home. She was invited by Hamilton County service coordinator and Visionaries and Voices (V&V) co-founder, **Bill Ross**, to participate in gallery showings and readings.

Currently, Barbara has a large inventory of work celebrating President Obama. Visionaries and Voices' staff thought her work would be interesting for a Washington, DC exhibition especially because Barbara passionately campaigned for John McCain—often bringing home McCain signs she made at the studio. Terrace Home's garden was "battle of the campaign signs." Barbara used up entire ink cartridges printing pages from McCain's website to create collages.

On a pair of overhauls she painted for her foster mother, **Pamela Myricks**, Barbara wrote, "Obama won't win." After many complaints from Pamela, Barbara crossed out "won't" and repainted "might" win.

Barbara became an avid fan of President Obama when the local McCain campaign office said it would be a liability to display her artwork after numerous inquiries by V&V staff members. President Obama's Cincinnati headquarters immediately picked up the sculpture of Barbara's studio mate, **Antonio Adams**.

Barbara continues her journey in art and politics. She did not attend studio on this past election day. Barbara makes a ritual of walking to her Clifton polling place followed by dinner on Ludlow. This is her ritual of independence. After Barbara voted in Clifton for the first time in 2001 election, her foster mother was accused of influencing her vote when Barbara was merely requesting help. So Barbara goes it alone and returns home to draw, write, and watch television/results late into the night.



"Obama," a paper collage, created by Barbara Riddle.

Some Thoughts of the Season and Christmas

Even though my position at OVRS is behind the scenes, I enjoy the relationships I have developed through the years (especially Michelle)! I am looking forward to seeing the ornaments this year. They brighten up our office and express the talents and dedication of the staff and the individuals we serve. To all the residents and staff of OVRS: I wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a blessed New Year!

Jenna

Being with my family and the good smell of baked treats throughout the house...

Anne

Being with friends and seeing Santa Claus...

Mary

Christmas tree décor, lights, glistening snow, religious beliefs & tradition...

Dawn

I get all the best gifts. I love the feelings it gives you, sharing the experience with family and the children's faces light up...

Nora

The spirit of giving is in the air; tradition surrounds each family gathering (as the next generation takes note) and your heart's desire can be found in beautifully wrapped packages BIG and small.

Kenya

Bringing the family together...music, gifts, and singing Christmas carols.... It is a time for family and friends to be together and share gifts, dinner and memories.

Larry

Every day is a holyday. Every day, I awake, God's child is born in me again, I vow to humanity to give my best to all I interact with, therefore, Christmas is my holyday, everyday. Thanksgiving is everyday, as well. Giving thanks to a higher power for the blessings bestowed to me and others is the first thought of my days. Observing happy faces for accomplishments, nice words, hugs, encouragements and humble tasks are gifts given everyday to all. God is Love. The Higher Power=Love, is the Greatest Gift.

Carol

Sharing with family...

David

When Jesus was born and celebrate his birth...

Alan

Drive around and see Christmas tree lights...

Richard



O, what a fright poor Pierre encounters!

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

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