



The Valley Views

A Newsletter of the Ohio Valley Residential Services, Inc.

June 2010

The Valley Views is published four times a year by The 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.

513.281.6800

Fax: 513.487.4787

michael.defrancesco@ovrs.org

Administrative Office
2261 Victory Parkway
Cincinnati OH 45206



Consumer Sites & Programs
Charlemar, Parkview, Ivanhoe,
Carmel Terrace, Cypress Way,
Ferncroft, North Bend,
Shadymist, Clovernook,
Woodsfield, Hansford, Lisbon,
Meyerhill, Brookforest,
Epworth Court, Galbraith,
Strifler, Wayland, 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.*

visit www.ovrs.org



New Apartment Building Replaces Shadymist

On June 1, OVRs purchased and closed on an apartment building, which soon will replace the Shadymist apartments in Mount Airy. Shadymist has served as home for OV tenants since 1980. The apartment building was part of the re-location from Lebanon, OH (bought under the banner of Opportunity Village). It has been a functional building with shopping nearby with some accessibility.

Unfortunately, over recent years, the immediate area became a neighborhood for exchanging and selling drugs—and then accompanied with other crimes—thft and fights and even murder. OV has been on the lookout for a replacement four-unit for a couple of years, including making a couple of offers on promising properties.

Recently, realtor **Jeff Hartman** brought the building to the attention of OVRs (shown in the above photo)—wonderfully located in Sycamore Township in easy walking distance to the Dillonvale Shopping Center. After some minor renovation and the installation of a sprinkler system, the current residents at Shadymist—along with staff—will relocate to a new home.

Happy Birthday to Patty!



It was a beautiful sunny day for a birthday gathering for **Patty Martin**. The staff and women at the Galbraith home in Madeira set a theme of red hats—with large paper flowers for the tables. Several visitors, including co-workers and friends from Jackson, **Tammy Wyatt**, friends **Jennifer** and **Lori** (who live at Ferncroft) and gentlemen visitors from nearby Woodsfield and Clovernook, spent the afternoon wearing bonnets of red (except the men). Cheers to **Amanda Scherer** for keeping things tidy and for decorating the birthday hat cake.

The Birth of an Idea from the Birth of a Child

Stephanie Friedstrom is a nurse, mother of six children, a mid-life inventor, and an imaginative promoter. One of Stephanie's sons was diagnosed with autism, and, as so often the case, doctors doomed him to a life of bare existence. And, as it is so often the case, Stephanie and her husband believed otherwise.

A fundamental necessity for some level of independence is the ability to clean one's self. While it may be a somewhat delicate subject, it is an essential action of any individual's personal care. It is generally for adults as humiliating to be cleaned as it is distasteful to the one cleaning the person. Enter the frustration of Stephanie and her husband, whose effort to teach their son how to wipe himself led to messes that far exceeded them tending to their son themselves.

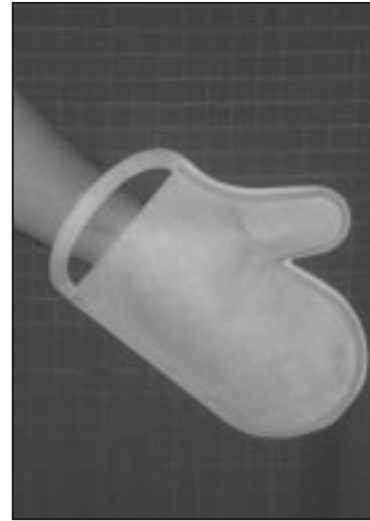
Using standard wipes off the shelf failed to solve the problem for her son, who lacked finger and body dexterity. One day Stephanie had an idea: what if my son could use a mitten of some kind so that he would not lose control of what he was doing?

Stephanie experimented, and came up with the idea of using fabric which makes up wipes, but formed the fabric into a glove. She tried it for her son and almost immediately, her son expressed exuberance in his triumph. Next, she patented the idea.

Looking for a manufacturer, she partnered with a company not far from where she lived that would be able to fabricate her product—now called the **Wett Mitt**. She designed her own website; she's presented to nursing homes, the Red Cross, social service agencies...in short, any service that takes care of people.

Stephanie is a quietly aggressive mom, who is as energetic about selling her product, as she was and is about assisting, teaching, and freeing her son and the sons and daughters of other moms and dads.

Stephanie has heard countless stories how the **Wett Mitt** has changed lives—helping people perform daily tasks. "If it helps people gain a modicum of independence and dignity," said Stephanie, "that's what keeps me going."



Stephanie Friedstrom created the glove-shaped wet wipe—**Wett Mitt**—to help her autistic son. Now it is available for others through her website.

For more information visit www.wettmitt.com

Betty Anglin Featured in New Ad Campaign



For several weeks, Betty's photo has graced the Peterman buses, which transport developmentally disabled individuals. Betty Anglin lives in Madeira.

Heard Over the Fence

Meyerhill

We would like to welcome **Alisha Parks** to the Meyerhill Team. **Mary Weber** is anxiously awaiting her third annual Camp Allyn retreat. **Dolly Thompson** is very excited about her spring shopping trip; she added some wonderful summer colors to her wardrobe (watch out for this Fashionista's spring/summer collection).

We would like to sing the praises of our maintenance team for all of their hard work. We have a beautiful new bathroom and it was worth the wait! Thank you!

Thanks to **Alise Hodges** and **Gussie Johnson** for bringing in their gently used items to donate to Frank's yard sale, which was held on May 15th. Meyerhill would like to send our sympathy and condolences to **Lloyd Miller's** family and staff at Parkview.

Hooray and congrats to all the moms on the OVRs staff, who have seniors who graduated in the Class of 2010!!

Wayland

The dudes of Wayland—**George, Danny, Louis, James, and Dale**—took advantage of Jazz on the Square by preparing a picnic and listening to some great sounds with a couple of horns in the background at Fountain Square. Cheers to **Jackie and Harold**, who made this event happen and also coordinated recent trips to Eden Park, where taking bread to feed the ducks wins praise from the ducks.

Cypress Way

The men at Cypress Way—**Ken Calloway, Kyle Dallman, Jeff Engle, Alto Jackson, Eugene Jones, Paul Meinking**, and the newest member to the household, **Milton Cash**, recently went on a fishing trip—“Fishing without Boundaries—at Hueston Woods. It was a type of fishing Olympics with medals going to the most productive fishermen. For whatever reason, **Ken Calloway** kept bagging the fish, and thus was awarded a gold medal for the number of fish that he hooked. Congrats, Kenny.

Happy Birthday to **Eugene Jones**, who just turned into his fifth decade.

Lloyd Miller's "Smile" Remembered by Friends and Staff

One of the gentlest men ever to “grace the halls” of OVRs, **Lloyd Miller** was remembered a couple of weeks ago for his smile and his kind words for anyone who would take the time to listen. He lived at the Parkview apartment building for several decades and became a fixture in Pleasant Ridge.

In the past five years, Lloyd's health deteriorated significantly and was unable to drink his morning coffee at the coffee shop on Montgomery Road or take out various neighbors' trash. Lloyd died at age 86.

Ann Edwards, who spent nine years with Lloyd, was able to get access to the Paul Crosley home for the memorial service. **Dawna Von Trotha** prepared a touching video for the memorial service which wonderfully captured Lloyd's influence...with photos aplenty of his special smile. **Jeff Leist**, of the Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services, played his guitar and sang a beautiful ballad. Ann recounted several conversations with Lloyd Miller.

Michael DeFrancesco showed a set of wrenches that Lloyd gave him several Christmas' ago. DeFrancesco said when Lloyd gave him the wrenches—in addition to thanking him—he told Lloyd he would keep them in his office on a prominent table to remind him always to “fix it, whatever was broken.”



Douglas Vanderlinden



My name is Douglas Vanderlinden.

I was in Pathways for three years.

What I liked most about Pathways was: bowling on the wi, eating lunch with my friends, and working at Lufasa's.

I liked learning how to cook.

I liked going to the car show. The girls are so cute!

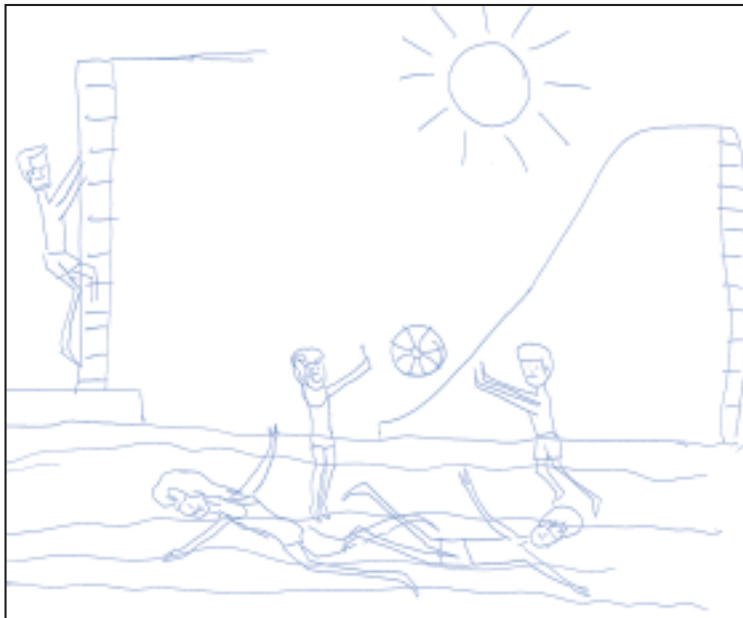
Thank you Ms. Boeger, Ms. Lauterbach, Robbin, Mrs Barnes and Mrs. Sander for helping me.

I have good friends in Pathways, Mike, Raphael, Matthew, Evan, and Zak ... thanks for being my buddies. I will miss you guys. Call me.

More, your nice. Thanks for helping me. I love you.

Thank you

Doug wrote and read aloud this accompanying poem at his recent graduation from the Pathways program at Scarlet Oaks.



"Summertime at the Beach" by George Timberlake

OVRS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carey Kruer, President
 Judith Heile, Past President
 Jeff Ladenburger, VP/Treasurer
 Henry Bang, Secretary
 Beverly Casey
 Robert Hock
 James McDermott, Emeritus
 Dennis Mullins
 Steven Smith
 Robert Schneider
 Michael DeFrancesco, Exec. Director
 Karen Burr, Program Director
 Marla Kurlansky, Proofer



CONTRIBUTERS

Glenn Clark
 Kim McCray
 Amanda Scherer
 Dawna Von Trotha
 Tammy Wyatt
 Sketch: George Timberlake



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

For information about employment or housing availability, visit www.ovrs.org



*Ohio Valley
 Residential Services*
 Ohio Valley Residential Services, Inc.
 2261 Victory Parkway
 Cincinnati OH 45206

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