



# The Valley Views

A Newsletter of the Ohio Valley Residential Services, Inc.

## Sometimes the Night Sparkles

October 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.

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### 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.*

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The sun was beginning to fade on the clear afternoon sky. It bode well: the stars would be out. The last minute bustle of people moving tables, mixing juice, making coffee, arranging table settings, and hanging photos was almost complete. This was all prep because the stars were coming out, and readiness was all important.

It was a day and a time to give honor and to celebrate the many stars at OVRs—the men and women who make up the work force and who offer the day-to-day assistance and support to the individuals under the OVRs umbrella.

We are devoting this edition of the newsletter to the staff working in homes, apartments, or foster settings. It is their attention and effort to make connections and offer a nurturing and supportive home setting, which help individuals achieve what is important to them.

The greeting of the “stars” was to begin with bright yellow flags draped over the metal rail of the office entry ramp.

And so, on September 20th the stars came out—one by one through the OVRs front door on Victory Parkway. There was Ozella...and...Marshea...and...Felicia...and Tommie...and...Liz...and on and on....



Judy Brady stands in front of a large fold-out card made by her supervisor, Leon Baskin. It is a tribute to Judy and Ruth Abdullah’s long-term work at North Bend. Included in the colorful card are many photos of residents and the staff interacting.

## Salute to Long-term Staff Contribution

The number of staff at OV who work directly with individuals is 145, including all 20 on-site supervisors. Also, there is another significant contingent of people who also work very directly with individuals—foster providers. The women and men who make up this group invite individuals into their homes to live. The foster providers, who currently number 28, offer up their homes to approximately 50 individuals.

Given the limitations of space at the office, we plan to hold a special acknowledgement of foster providers on Sunday afternoon, November 7th, at the Victory Parkway office.

One of the most difficult tasks of any human service organization is to attract and retain the needed work force. And so, for their long-term contribution, we salute the following staff in the adjacent box.

### 25 Years

Mical Ghebre-Ab Woodsfield

### 20 Years

Carolyn Burden Woodsfield

Deb Merriweather Wayland

Karen Williams Strifler

Linda Robinson Wayland

### 15 Years

Ruth Abdullah North Bend

Helen Collins North Bend

Ozella Bennett Parkview

Marty Gatewood Wayland

Jackie Jackson Parkview

Betty Lee Woodfield

Zach Grant Cheviot



Tammy Wyatt, an OVRS program coordinator, initiated the idea of having a jewelry class one day a week. It has grown from a couple of interested individuals to as many as 20 on Thursday evenings in the finished basement at the Galbraith home in Madeira. The class now includes craft projects.

This is where many of the flags were made. The use of flags to celebrate the direct support staff was an idea hatched in New Hampshire and promoted by the national association advocating for community services—ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources).

As OVRS staff members entered the building, there were more flags and stars hanging from the ceiling and decorations and prizes and sweets. The flags—a project carried out at the Galbraith home in Madeira—had names as the “stars” entered the door.



Patty Martin is working on a flag that will hang in the office entry. Unseen is “Tweety” Collins assisting Patty with her design, including the glitter.

# Heard Over the Fence

## Wayland

The guys from Wayland went on a five-day vacation in August up to Lake Erie. They enjoyed going to Cedar Point, going on safari, and seeing the dinosaurs. They played miniature golf, saw a movie and went out on the ferry to Put in Bay Island. Everyone had a great time.

## All Homesites

A group made up of several different homesites went to Tennessee early in September. The group included **Charlie Mains** (Ferncroft), **Gary Dole** (Clovernook), **Alan Sims**, **Richard Koenig**, **Steve Maynard**, and **David Mohn** (Woodsfield) and **Patty Martin**, **Deb Day**, **Dorothy Weathers** (Madeira). They attended several dinner shows, Dollywood, and, of course, did some shopping. Wonderworks was a great hit and provided some entertainment that was a bit unexpected. A special Thank You goes out to the SWOR board and **Ms. Dole** who helped make it possible for **Gary** to go on this vacation.

We also had a great turn out for our OVRs Reds game. It was the biggest turn out ever! Everyone enjoyed the all-you-can-eat-buffet lunch with unlimited drinks. Unfortunately, the Reds lost this year (they usually win when we attend) but fun was had by all.

**Tammy Wyatt** planned the successful OVRs-sponsored trek to Coney Island. It included a picnic and swimming. Almost all the individuals from OVRs attended. Special thanks to the new addition of bingo played in the picnic tents hosted by the office staff. It was a big hit! Finally, there was a fall prom, sponsored by the Vineyard Community Church in Tri-county. Volunteers from the church planned the event, which was open to all developmentally disabled individuals who wished to attend. They made provisions for people who had no money so they were able to wear a formal suit or dress. They also provided the food, the music, and all the "sparkle."

## Woodsfield

Woodsfield went to Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The guys enjoyed their trip, sightseeing, dinner shows, and some shopping.

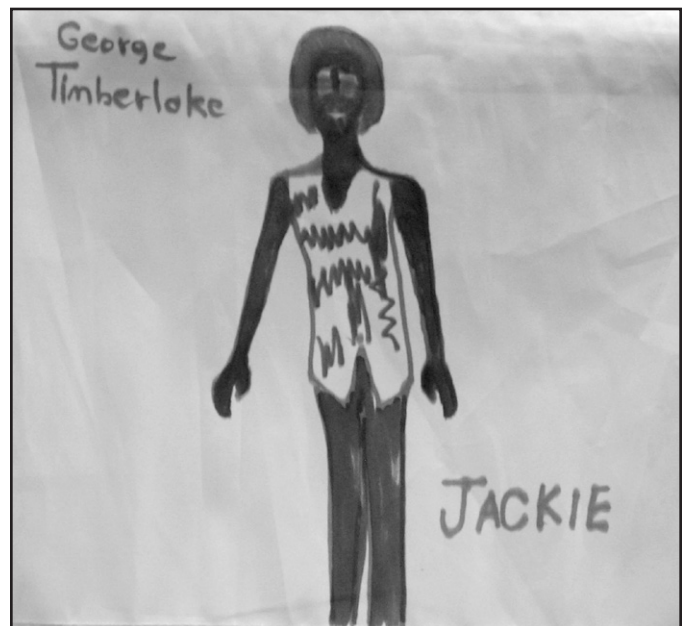
**Richard** celebrated his birthday.

On behalf of all the guys and myself, we want to recognize all of the great staff who provide outstanding services at the Woodsfield home.

## Cheviot Apartments

The luau at the Cheviot Apartments, which was coordinated by **Cathy Hill** and her able staff, was very successful. It brought together five of the OVRs homes, and importantly, an engaged participation by all residents.

Tammy Wyatt brought five flags to Wayland home so each of the men living there could make a flag of one of the staff who works with them. As it turned out, George Timberlake, OVRs' graphic artist, got his magic markers and in short order produced four flags. The one below is of Linda Robinson holding an extra large dish of ice cream and her favorite bird and cage; and the adjacent one is of Jackie Campbell, wearing her favorite sweater.



George Timberlake once again nicely demonstrates his distinctive talent by using just a few strokes of his magic markers to particularize each of the Wayland staff, who he depicted on the pictured flags.



At the Staff Appreciation Evening—among the flags, hanging stars, and well-wishing cards—was a table set up with items to win: a spa package, a pizza package, movie tickets, Karen Burr's famous carrot cake, a dinner at Nicola's, and a set of pearls. But, no doubt the most coveted prize was for three most fortunate persons to have lunch with Michael DeFrancesco. Imagine—a lunch of tasty wit and sauteed vignettes in a place of old world charm with Him. How good can it get for Liz Davis, Cynthia Taylor, and Capucine Christian who were the winners!

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

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