

# THE Writing on the Wall



*Making life better together.*

FALL/WINTER 2018

Wedded  
Bliss

Director's  
Corner

What's That  
BUZZ?

Behavioral  
Support

Oh, the Places...



# Donnie & Marie *Wedded Bliss*

It was a day filled with joy, laughter and a happily ever after! Family and friends from all over the East Coast came together to watch Donnie and Marie Hale become one on June 16th, 2018.

Their story began when providers Nick Cione and Shawn McQueen introduced Donnie and Marie to each other for the first time. "It was in the truck when they first met," explained Nick, "Marie was living with another provider at the time, and we were picking her up to go to the movies with us." At the time, Donnie was looking for a girlfriend, and as soon as he saw Marie he knew she was the one. When Donnie asked Marie out she was already seeing someone else, but in her words, "she would drop him like a hot potato," to be with Donnie. They were together for about two years before Donnie popped the big question. "I asked, will you marry me?" Donnie stated, "And she said yeah!"

The wedding day finally arrived, and everyone gathered outside to witness the special event. It was the definition of a perfect day; with the sun gleaming across Nick and Shawn's backyard and the fresh air being perfumed by surrounding flowers. But all of that went unnoticed when Marie stepped out to make her way down the aisle. Her gown was one that could be envied by any bride, and of course it was covered with sparkle to match Marie's bright personality. She walked with her arm linked around Shawn's, and when they came to the end of the aisle, Shawn and Nick gave Marie over to stand hand in hand with her soon to be husband.

So many emotions were expressed from the crowd as Donnie's brother officiated the wedding. "God has made you all to be together, and if you stay together you can conquer anything," stated the officiant. Donnie's sister-in-law then sang in beautiful acapella version of the Etta James classic, "At Last". Rings and "I Dos" were exchanged, and then Donnie and Marie were pronounced husband and wife.



Donnie & Marie enjoying their wedding cake.

"When we get done getting married we are going on our honeymoon," explained Donnie. Marie nodded in excitement and Shawn asked, "You wanted to eat lunch with princesses, didn't you?" "Yeah!" laughed Marie, "but I'm the princess."

As the day came to an end, it was only the beginning of Donnie and Marie's journey together. With a smile, Donnie looked over to Marie and said, "The best day was to tell you to be my wife." Marie replied, "I love you all the time and I'm not going to let you go! Now you got it." And as the two newly weds laughed together Donnie agreed with a smile, "you got that right."



Donnie & Marie say their I Dos.

## Director's Corner

By Jack Wall

Wall Residences has developed an amazing range of supports for our statewide residential services. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about our **Behavior Support Team** and our **Professional Nursing Services**. These services, along with our Wall Residences Activities Program, program management support and extensive office and administrative support provides for advanced assistance for many specialized needs. These services are organized around teams of professionals operating in twelve regions around the state. Currently these regions are located in:

1. Southwest Virginia including Carroll, Grayson, Wythe, Galax and surrounding areas
2. New River Valley including Montgomery, Floyd, Giles and Pulaski Counties
3. Roanoke region including Roanoke, Craig, Franklin, Botetourt and Patrick County areas
4. Lynchburg area including Campbell, Amherst, Bedford and Appomattox County areas
5. Danville area including Pittsylvania and Henry Counties and some surrounding areas

6. Staunton area including Rockbridge, Augusta, Rockingham Counties and some surrounding areas
7. Charlottesville area including Nelson, Greene, Fluvanna, Orange and Louisa Counties and some surrounding areas
8. Fredericksburg area including Culpeper, Stafford, Orange, Spotsylvania and Rappahannock Counties and some surrounding areas
9. Winchester area including Shenandoah, Warren, Frederick, Clarke, Fauquier, Loudon and Rockingham Counties and some surrounding areas
10. Richmond area including Chesterfield, Henrico, Hanover, Powhatan and Goochland Counties and some surrounding areas
11. Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck/Hampton/Newport News and surrounding areas
12. Northern Virginia including Prince William, Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria

These teams of workers provide exceptional, cross disciplinary supports to provide the best services in Virginia. Check us out!

## What's All The Buzz About?

Kesha Phillips has always been active in her community. Teaching others how to communicate with sign language, participating in storytelling contests, and attending multiple adult art classes, she is always getting involved in new activities. One particular program that Kesha enjoys is making a huge impact in the community.

**Buzz's Bunch** is a nonprofit that Buzz Williams, Virginia Tech men's basketball head coach, created to encourage individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to fall in love with basketball by practicing various skills with the assistance of team players. Kesha enjoyed her time at Tech participating in this camp where she received a t-shirt, goody bag, and will get to attend a men's basketball game this winter. She even got to take a picture with the coach!



Kesha with Virginia Tech Head Basketball Coach Buzz Williams.



Kesha shooting baskets with the help of Tech basketball players.

## Introducing...

### Wall Residences Behavioral Support Team

Wall Residences is excited to announce our newest service available to individuals and their support teams. The **Behavior Support Team** is comprised of highly trained team members in every region of the state, including registered behavior technicians and positive behavior support facilitators who are overseen by a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst. Heather Cromer, Behavioral Coordinator, BCBA, and LBA, oversees this team. As an agency, we recognize that there is a significant need for behavioral supports and that this need typically comes with a long wait time to receive consultation from an outside agency.

Our mission, through the Behavior Support Team, is to provide person-centered behavioral supports and fulfill training needs as they arise. If challenging behaviors are interfering with quality of life for someone that you support, please reach out to your program manager who can make a referral to the Behavior Support Team. There are many individuals across the state who are already benefiting from this new, available support.



Heather Cromer



*Individuals who experience challenging behaviors are better able to participate in preferred activities in their home and community when they are provided person-centered behavior supports.*

### Wall Residences Nursing Services

Wall Residences is expanding nursing services offered to individuals in our services and currently has three full-time registered nurses. We are working on recruiting a fourth RN and many full and part-time licensed practical nurses (LPNs).

Nursing services range from providing direct, hands on skilled care to supporting regional training needs. **Jessa Layne, RN, Medical Quality Assurance Director** has been with the agency for over six years and is responsible for overseeing nursing services. Kevyn Burn, RN and Heidi Crowder, RN are the other full-time registered nurses for Wall Residences.

**Say Hi to Kevyn!** In my life's work I have dedicated myself to promoting unity, peace, and love for people of all backgrounds, functions, and limitations. A great joy of being a Wall Residences team member, is that I can bring this embrace and all of my skills to each person in the homes, teams, and community partners I serve. Assuring our care is holistic and represents 'the whole' is essential for me. The service I bring to Wall Residences gives me the opportunity to improve the lives of many and meet the call for my life personally.

**Say Hi to Heidi!** My mission, as a registered nurse, is to provide competent and compassionate care to every person that I serve. The community of nurses at Wall Residences strives to deliver care based on sound nursing judgement that honors diversity, informed decision making, and human dignity. In going to work as a nurse each day, I feel blessed to be fulfilling the calling of my life. I vow to remain educated, honest, and professional for the duration of my career.



## Oh, the Places You Can Go!

James "Beau" Floyd is back at home after being a world traveler! While on his trip, he made sure to stop at all the favorite landmarks in Iceland, France, and Greece with his Direct Support Professional, Amari Saint. He said that the Eiffel Tower was Beau's most memorable visit. About three years ago, Beau was uneasy when riding escalators or elevators, now with encouragement and support, he was able to stand 1,000 feet in the air in one of the most beautiful cities in the world! He was very happy and

relaxed after and was proud of this accomplishment.

Beau also visited the Paris Catacombs, the Meteora Monasteries in Greece and the Blue Lagoon in Iceland. He plans to make his next trip to Peru in January.



## Come Together Fall 2018

Wall Residences Residential and WRAP Program Managers, Coordinators, QA Team and Office Staff, met in Floyd for a three-day staff retreat and training. The theme of this fall's meeting was "Come Together". We had a lot of material to cover and were fortunate to have state Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services staff make the trip to provide training to us as well.

It is our intention to have the most well trained and well-informed support staff so that our contracted family providers and Direct Support Professionals always have a "heads up" with changes BEFORE they occur!

We did make some time for a bit of fun (not enough), creativity and good food. We are blessed with smart, committed and hardworking staff and appreciated the opportunity to "Come Together!"



*Cover photo: (L-R) Jarrod Corrick & Leigh Raines enjoying a fall outing at the pumpkin patch.*

## Admissions

Greetings and Happy Fall to everyone! You will find Wall Residences Admissions staff ready and willing to assist you. Our admissions staff will make arrangements to meet the individual who is looking for a service, the support coordinator and/or family member within 2-3 business days of first contact. We also participate in provider fairs and disability related conference events across the state. Never hesitate to stop by our booth and say hello! We have our currently available service options from across the state listed (with pictures) on our web site under the vacancies tab.



Smiling faces at the Arc Conference - (L) Angela Newman (Regional Coordinator) & Pam Golas (Admissions Coordinator).

Wall Residences admissions staff also work with Regional Coordinators across the state on new provider development. If you know of an experienced and skilled Direct Support Professional who has excellent references and who might be interested in exploring becoming a contracted Family Provider please have them contact us! Contact Alex Jackson, Admissions

Director, or Pam Golas, Admissions Coordinator with questions and /or to be directed to admissions staff closest to you. Alex can be reached at (434) 610-7578 or [ajackson@wallresidences.com](mailto:ajackson@wallresidences.com) / Pam Golas (540) 292-0608, [pgolas@wallresidences.com](mailto:pgolas@wallresidences.com).

### Featured Vacancy

For information, please call Pam Golas.

Angela and Leroy White live in a three-story house in Locust Grove, Virginia. They have two sons, Leroy, Jr. and Terence, who visit often. They live on four beautiful, wooded acres and the individual who chooses this home will be able to decorate their bedroom as they desire. Angela is a Certified Medical Assistant and is capable of handling medical issues.

The Whites are very active in church and love to help the community. Their home is located minutes from the Wilderness Historical Battlefield, the Community Golf Course, Locust Grove Community Library, and Walmart.



To see the full listing and others, please visit: [www.wallresidences.com](http://www.wallresidences.com) under Vacancies.

## Yard Sale Fun for Holiday Joy



A donation based yard and bake sale was recently held to support the non-profit Mason's Toy Box, which supports the families of children with pediatric cancer. We had a great day and raised \$250. to benefit the cause. ([masonstoybox.org](http://masonstoybox.org))

In the upcoming months they will be in need of people to help pick up and deliver boxes of toys from local stores to be distributed to children in area hospitals this holiday season. The program has grown to include Charlottesville, Richmond, the Shenandoah Valley, and Roanoke. Interested DSPs should contact them through their website for volunteer opportunities.

(L to R) Stacey Blackwell, Jeremy Simmons, and Chandra "Kay" Johnson, showing off the funds raised for Mason's Toy Box.

## Wall Residences Television Ad Copy *Satire by Jack*

(Roll to a video of smiling providers and individuals in services at an amusement park)

Being a Wall Residences Sponsored Family Provider brings happiness, fulfillment and success. Show more of yourself. Be Wall Residences Clear. Live the good life!

Do not become a Sponsored Provider if you are allergic to hard work. Do not become a provider if you need regular, uninterrupted sleep as sleep interruptions are a regular side effect of this work. People who need regular days off will experience withdrawal symptoms. Consult your psychiatrist if they become severe.

You will experience strangers coming to your home every few days to look through your records. Call your Program Manager immediately whenever this occurs, unless the person at your door is your Program Manager.

Other side effects include being investigated by multiple agencies for minor things you may not have ever done or ever thought of doing. For some people, death or debilitation may occur as a result of excessive interrogation and unannounced reviews. If you think you are becoming paranoid, check with your doctor as these symptoms may be the reality of what you are experiencing.

Do not engage in this work if you require privacy, regular sleep, regular breaks, a social life, your sanity, free-

dom from chaos or if you are not good at multitasking.

It is recommended that you have a martyrdom or a masochistic tendency.

You should be able to administer up to 35 medications at a time, lift 50 to 150 pounds consistently and manage verbal and physical abuse.

Do not apply if you need medical insurance, retirement or unemployment benefits.

Other effects of this work are that your relatives and neighbors may not want to talk with or see you anymore. Estrangement from regular social activities are to be expected.

Desired expectations for people who do this work are that you have a large wheelchair accessible home with plexi-glass windows located in a remote area away from neighbors and that you own a large, wheelchair lift van or bus.

Most important, you must have the dedication of Mother Teresa and the patience of Job.



## Training Opportunities

Wall Residences has many opportunities for training for all staff. In addition to required certifications (offered regionally across the state), Wall Residences offers on site, in person training at least 3 times per year in each region on a variety of topics as well as for networking and support.

For the convenience of Direct Support Professionals (Contracted Family Providers, Back Up Workers, WRAP, In-Home and Group Home staff) Wall Residences has a current contract with Open Future Learning for very person centered on line training. Contact your Program Manager or Kim Snider, Training Coordinator to sign up.





A dream came true for rock and roll fan James Brads when he and provider Amanda McDorman attended a ZZ Top concert in Roanoke. Not only did they have front row seats, James also got to meet band members Frank Beard and Bill Gibson who gave him a CD. James had a great time at the concert and danced and sang the whole time.

### Wall Residences

P.O. Box 235  
Floyd, VA 24091

Phone: 540-745-4216  
Fax: 540-745-5367

[www.wallresidences.com](http://www.wallresidences.com)

**Editors:** Kamala Bauers,  
Michele Morris and Emily Gruver

**Layout Design:** Elaine Martinez

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**PO BOX 235, FLOYD, VA 24091**

*Bright Blessings*  
FROM WALL RESIDENCES