

THE Writing on the Wall



Making life better together.

SPRING 2018

**Advocate
in Action**

**Director's
Corner**

**Sunfields
Opening**

**Get Up
and LIVE!**

That's a WRAP



Individuals *in Action*

Friendly, talkative and fashionable are just some of the words that come to mind when you hear the name Jessica Ross. Jessica is from the New River Valley and is a self-advocate for people just like her.

However, Jessica hasn't always been the social butterfly; 15 years ago, Jessica did not like to talk very much.

Sonyan Jones, her sponsored residential provider, has been with Jessica for the past 15 years and says it has been an amazing transition. "Jessica was very shy when she first came to live with me," says Sonyan. "She wore her hair short and dressed in clothes that didn't mesh with her personality." Today, their swagger cannot be ignored in a crowd. Jessica wears her hair long, struts stylish outfits and has a confidence that we can all envy.



Top: Jessica at work.

Lower: Sonyan and Jessica on a hike.

A few years ago, Wall Residences asked Jessica to create a presentation on how her life has changed living with a sponsored residential provider. After not being able to speak to anyone, Jessica can now get up in front of an audience and tell her story.

Jessica has presented her speech at numerous meetings and in college classrooms. This past February, she was asked to attend a legislators meeting and spoke in Richmond about the Urgent Medicaid Waiver. "I am probably alive today because of the benefits I received from the Urgent Medicaid Waiver Insurance," Jessica stated.

During her speech, Jessica described how life used to be for her. She was sick, overweight and lived with a mother who was unable to give Jessica the support she needed. She would not speak due to her sadness and would cry a great deal. When her mother passed away, Jessica's sadness grew even more. That's when the community stepped in to help. Jessica was appointed a teacher/friend as guardian, and together they learned about the support a Wall Residences sponsored residential service could provide. In Sonyan's care, "I became happy and healthy. Now I love to talk and I have many friends," stated Jessica during her speech in Richmond. She asked the legislators to, "help other people like me to be able to live a life like yours



Jessica giving her speech at the legislator meeting in Richmond, Va.

and mine through the Urgent Medicaid Waiver Insurance."

In addition to delivering speeches to various groups, Jessica has a part-time job at the dining hall on Virginia Tech's campus. She works 12 hours a week and loves to meet new people. She also participates in many of the Special Olympic sports such as bowling and volleyball. During her free time, she enjoys biking, taking photos, playing the piano and hiking along the many NRV trails.

Even though Jessica stays busy, she still finds time to spread awareness about the living conditions people like her must face each day. When asked if she ever gets nervous before one of her speeches, her reply is, "Not a bit."

Our stories are powerful, and we hope Jessica will encourage others to share theirs too.

Director's Corner

By Kamala Bauers, LCSW, QA Director



Wall Residences is growing, both in the number of individuals we are supporting and in the number of services we provide.

We appreciate that we are being recognized for the quality of our work by individuals and their families who make a choice to receive services through this agency. Thank you for choosing us! We are blessed with the best in Direct Support Professionals in each of the services we are providing, and also with our success in recruiting and retaining the best in professional staff who support their work. We invite you to check out our web site for pictures and bios of these staff!

We have expanded our sponsored residential service capacity across the state (check our web site for current vacancy listing), traditional group homes in SWVA, in-home support services, and the Wall Residences Activities Program (WRAP) community engagement and community coaching services. We have

also increased the number of certified / licensed professional staff who can provide Nursing, Behavior, and Therapeutic Consultation services. To support all of our expanding services we are increasing our capacity to provide comprehensive training to every person who works with Wall Residences with a focus on person-centered practices.

Through all of this excitement and hard work, it is our intention to never lose sight of each individual we support. To accomplish this we work – one person at a time – from the focus individual to the support system around that person. Thank you for your confidence in us and for being part of our team! **We are better, together!**

Meet the Admissions Team

What I love most about my home is who I share it with.

ALEX JACKSON
CENTRAL & SOUTHERN VA
434-610-7578

ELISHA HYPES
SOUTHWEST VA
540-750-0144

PAM GOLAS
NORTHERN AREA OF VA
540-292-0608

For a full list of our vacancies visit
www.wallresidences.com/vacancies
and choose your location!

Wall Residences Admissions Team is here for you. We are your one stop shop for all things related to Wall Residences admissions processes. If you are interested in learning more about the services that Wall Residences has to offer or about any of our vacancies, please contact a member of the Admissions Team. Our current admissions team consists of Pam Golas, Alex Jackson, and Elisha Hypes.

Pam Golas serves the Shenandoah Valley, Northern, and Eastern regions of Virginia. Alex Jackson serves the Central region of Virginia. Elisha Hypes, the newest member of our Admissions Team, covers services in the New River Valley, Southwest Virginia and Roanoke. Please contact Alex Jackson, Admissions Director, with any questions and to learn more about what Wall Residences has to offer. Alex can be reached at 434-610-7578 or ajackson@wallresidences.com.

The Opening of Sunfields Group Home

We are excited to announce the opening of Sunfields, our new Group Home in the Hillsville area!

The home was built to allow four individuals to have a private room that they can personalize to their taste and personality. There is an open floor plan that features a beautiful updated kitchen, living area and dining room. Both full bathrooms are handicap accessible, with the main bathroom having a double door entrance. One of the best features of the home is the large sunroom, which allows plenty of natural light for relaxing and enjoying the surrounding views. Sunfields is favored by individuals that prefer or need more involvement and support from our staff members.

We feel very grateful that we can extend our services in SWVA. It gives us the opportunity to create a new life for the people we support, as well as their families and community.



SAVE THE DATE

Wall Residences

All-Provider Conference

Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, Virginia

Guest Speakers & sharing

"best practices of WR exemplary services"

Great Fellowship & Food



Join Us! October 26th – 9:30a - 4:00p

Time to Get Up and LIVE!

“There is a saying that we wake up to every day,” says provider Rosita Usuah from Alexandria, “We get up, and we LIVE!” Just a simple phrase that has shaped a whole household’s way of life.

Rosita has been a sponsored residential provider with Wall Residences for eight years. Lisa Harp has been with Rosita from the beginning, and Sarah Martin joined the family four years ago. Their motto is simple – you go out and you appreciate the little things. This may seem like an easy way to live, but it hasn’t always been that simple in this household.

A few years ago, Wall Residences ended services in the Northern Virginia area. When services returned to the area in November, Rosita was the first to jump at the opportunity. Now they are back, and they are grateful for the little things.

Life is a celebration, and these women do just that. Between trips, picnics, going to church or volunteering in the community, they always know how to be the life of the party. Even while sitting down for the interview, Lisa had to show off some dance moves. “Lisa, she parties. She loves to dance,” laughed Rosita. “Sarah didn’t use to dance, but she dances now. She gets her little groove on.” Both Lisa and Sarah’s lives changed drastically when they came to stay with Rosita, and now they have more opportunities and chances to live the life that they choose.

While at other agencies, Lisa and Sarah had little independence. “When we came back to Wall Residences one thing that really made the ladies feel good was getting a key to their own room,” said Rosita. Sarah has decorated her room in all purple, while Lisa prefers the color pink. They also cook their own meals at times. Sarah says her favorite dish to make is rice and Lisa’s is stuffed peppers.

But the best way to describe Lisa and Sarah is with their Special Olympics basketball nick-names. “I’m ‘Flashy,’” stated Lisa as she showed off her freshly manicured nails. “My name is Princess,” added Sarah. Their basketball team is filled with ‘Girl Power.’ In



L -R: Sarah, Rosita and Lisa enjoying a good laugh.

fact, they haven’t lost a game and qualified for the championships. Rosita is one of the coaches and really helps get the girls motivated, “They play hard, and once I say, ‘Girl Power,’ it’s on!”

And just like any other family, they create goals. Sarah would like to become a singer. She is reaching that goal by singing in her church and talent shows. Another goal is to become a journalist and is working towards this goal by keeping a journal where she writes down her thoughts and activities each day.

Lisa has big dreams of becoming a movie star and is starting to save up money to go on a trip to Hollywood. Another goal of Lisa’s is to become an artist and get some of her artwork framed.

These goals are a reality for them now because of Rosita’s support. It’s not just something that they have to dream about.

But the main goal for all three women is happiness. “Happiness is a choice,” stated Sarah, and all agree that they have made that choice to be happy.

“I’m thankful for Wall Residences for coming back to Northern VA to help the people, because it’s needed,” says Rosita.

And with that, Sarah’s closing remarks are ones that we can all live by, “Be blessed, be thankful for what you have and be good.”

That's a Wrap!

You can hear the sound of sniffles and coughs spreading all around us during this time of season, especially in children. June Colvin and Teresa Gibson (pictured to the right) are trying to help prevent some Staunton children from spreading these pesky germs with a simple act. Every week, these ladies head out to their local church to clean the nursery toys and help keep children healthy during the winter season. Way to go girls!

Jeremy Simmons is also stepping out into the community! If you were rushing for some last-minute Christmas shopping, you may have spotted Jeremy ringing the bell and taking donations for the Salvation Army.

June not only helps clean toys at the church, but she volunteers at the local recycling center.

All individuals pictured are part of our WRAP program (Wall Residences Activities Program). This community engagement service helps support individuals to be actively engaged and form relationships in their community.



Bowling Is Right Up Our Alley!

Just call them butter, because these bowlers are on a roll! Every Thursday night you can find many individuals with Wall Residences at the Christiansburg bowling alley racking up strikes.

This bowling program is a partnership between Special Olympics and the Intellectual Disabilities Agency. There are two eleven-week sessions each year, and during these sessions, you better believe each lane is going to be packed.

Herman Dalton and Benny Willard, out of the New River Valley, have been attending these events for the past 11 years. Their sponsored residential providers, Jeffery and Mary Lester, say that you can guarantee on seeing them bowl each Thursday. Out of those 11 years, they say that they've only missed one night so far! "They enjoy seeing their friends and being around the volunteers. It's been a really good experience for everyone," says Jeffery.



*Far left: Benny Willard flashing a smile
Left: Triona Bason is ready to bowl!
Both Right:
Herman Dalton finishes up his turn.*



Wall Residences Honor Roll 2018

Celebrating Provider Anniversaries

5-Year Anniversary

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Clint Cook & Shakia Creamer | Jan 9th | Karen Largen | July 15th |
| Everett Warner & Rebecca Quesenberry | Jan 12th | Terrick Moyer | July 15th |
| Sandra Journigan | Jan 25th | Clark and Brandelle Carr | July 22nd |
| Samantha Bowers | Feb 1st | Wanda Cunningham | Aug 16th |
| Connie Brown | Feb 1st | Bridgette & William Crigler | Oct 1st |
| Angela & Leroy White | Feb 28th | Pat Jarrell & Connie Vaughn | Oct 1st |
| Josh & Samantha Rose | Mar 16th | Kim and Thomas Goodloe | Oct 1st |
| Kristen & Adam Camper | Mar 29th | Kevin & Wendy Saunders | Oct 30th |
| Teresa Mawyer | Apr 5th | Valerie & Sierra Cooper | Oct 31st |
| Deborah & Willie Nelson, Jr. | Apr 12th | Mark & Jordan Fitzgerald | Nov 15th |
| Nora (Jean) Reardon | May 1st | Lillian Arevalo | Dec 1st |
| Kathey & James Craig | May 15th | Erick and Brenda Hawks | Dec 1st |
| Tiffany Norman | May 15th | Delores Crite | Dec 1st |
| Tangie & Michael Berry | May 30th | Freddie & Agnes Deel | Dec 9th |
| Wayne Lawson | July 12th | | |

10-Year Anniversary

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Cheryl & Jeffrey Farris | Jan 1st | Amanda Anders | May 15th |
| Kristi & Andre Stoken | Jan 19th | Pamela & Mark Turner | June 20th |
| Janet Young | Jan 28th | Kevin (Tanner) Jackson | July 1st |
| Patricia Jones | Feb 1st | Jean Ann Bartley | Sept 12th |
| Deborah & James Dowdy | Feb 15th | Bonnie & Allen Clendenin | Oct 23rd |
| Melissa (Lisa) & Christopher Summer | Mar 17th | Kimberly Story | Nov 1st |
| Daisy Napper | Apr 7th | Tisha Howard | Dec 1st |
| Sarah Perry | May 15th | | |

15-Year Anniversary

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|----------|
| Linda & Vincent (Mark) Russell | Jan 1st | Rita Childress | Sept 1st |
| Mack & Karen Brown | Feb 1st | Dwayne Banton | Oct 29th |
| Mary Woody | Apr 1st | Janes & Nathan Wilkins | Nov 6th |
| Sonyan Jones | June 20th | Althea Miller | Nov 15th |

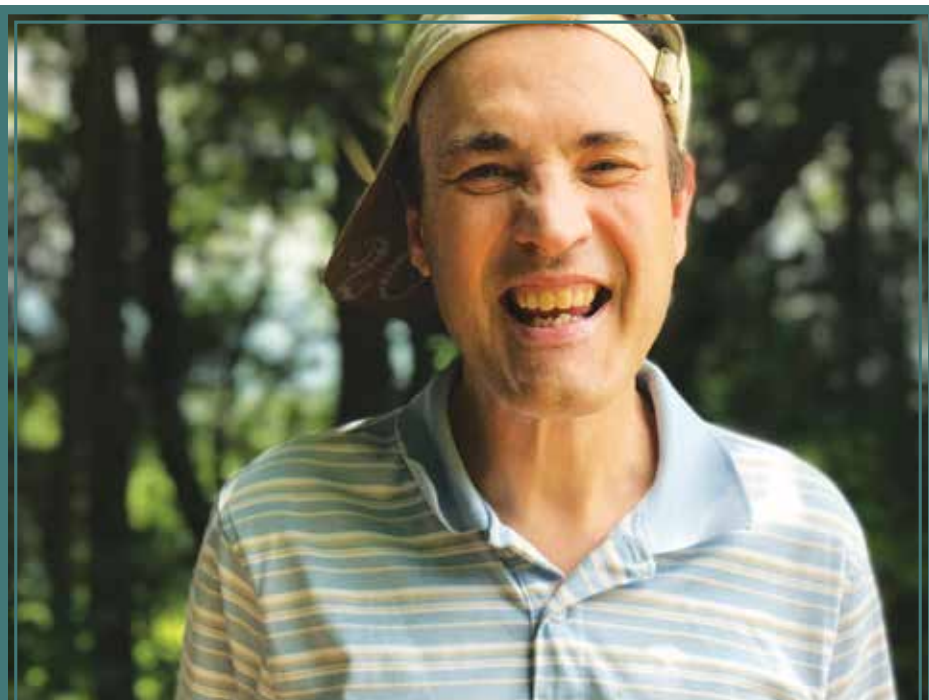
Celebrating Employees' 5 & 10 Year Anniversaries

5-Year Anniversary

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------|-------------------|----------|
| Emily Eagle | Jan 14th | Elizabeth Hayes | Nov 1st |
| Claudia Bernard | March 18th | James Fogo | Nov 18th |
| John Weatherspoon | May 6th | Patricia Harstock | Dec 9th |
| Patricia Washington | July 25th | Lindsay Lopez | Dec 9th |
| Sara Viers | Aug 1st | Sonya Carr | Dec 16th |

10-Year Anniversary

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|----------|
| Alex Jackson | April 1st | Ann Shrader | Oct 15th |
| Dawn Anderson | June 23rd | Curtis Pleasant | Nov 3rd |



James Brads, taken while visiting the canal locks along Maury River in Buena Vista, Va.
Cover: Teresa Gibson cleans toys at church.

Wall Residences

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WALL RESIDENCES
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HAPPY SPRING!
FROM WALL RESIDENCES