

THE Writing on the Wall



Making life better together.

SPRING & SUMMER 2017

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Individuals *in Action*



Barbara enjoys collecting pocket books.

Congratulations are in order for two individuals in Wall Residences' services, who made the CVTC Campus Connections monthly newsletter!

Barbara lives with provider Cordine Rose in Madison Heights. Her success story was told in the March 2017 edition. Barbara has enjoyed shopping, wearing jewelry and make up, having her pocket book collection, attending church, taking day trips out of town, meeting new people, and walking for exercise since moving in with Ms. Rose.

Billy lives at Deerfield Group Home in Amherst. His success story was told in the Febru-

ary 2017 CVTC newsletter. Billy continues to be an active and

vocal member of his new community. He's developed relationships with "Winky" (his barber), Amherst public library staff, and a music therapist who visits the home weekly. Billy's favorite activities are visiting the Montebello Fish Hatchery, shopping, checking the mail, listening to country music, going for walks on nature trails, and enjoying his magazine collection. Billy loves being the center of attention, as he was for his 65th birthday party last September!



Billy's family celebrating his 65th birthday.

Wall Residences Activities Program

Community Engagement services are to be used to support individuals to be actively engaged in the larger community in small groups of two to three individuals. The idea is to assist people to form relationships with non-paid people and to increase the individual's circle of community friends. Attending activities that have been created for individuals who experience disabilities (Special Olympics, some bowling leagues, etc.) do not count as "Community Engagement" as defined by this program. This requires us to be even more creative. Volunteering at the Humane Society, taking a pottery class at the local arts studio, using the Maker Space to learn 3-D printing, taking a yoga class in the community, and attending a church services can all be included.

Balancing the interests of two to three individuals with varying support needs with one staff person, is more than a bit challenging and we have experienced some opportunities for learning that we expect to continue for the first year of startup. Wall Residences is committed to working through the challenges and is gearing up to offer this opportunity to as many of the individuals we support as possible.

For additional information, contact WRAP Director Sharon Stroble: 804.385.0278 or Sstroble@wallresidences.com



Terri J of the Jarrell service is learning to use the 3D printer at the Meadowdale Library in Chesterfield with the Librarian

Director's Corner

By John Weatherspoon, Executive Director

One person can make a difference. Many people working together can move mountains. At Wall Residences, we had the pleasure of seeing both of those statements come to life over the winter. Through the work and advocacy of numerous natural family members, led by Ann Janney Schultz, Wall Residences contracted providers & staff and provider groups such as; the Virginia Sponsored Residential Provider Group, Virginia Network of Private Providers and the ARC of Virginia, a number of important measures which impact the individuals we serve were recognized by the General Assembly and added as amendments.

Senator Emmett Hanger, from the 24th District and co-chair of the Senate Finance Committee, sponsored an amendment which added sponsored residential services to the list of services eligible for customized rates. This will allow individuals who have been identified as having significant medical or behavioral needs to choose sponsored residential as a service option and for those who are already receiving services in a sponsored setting and receive exceptional supports to apply for customized rates. This will decrease the potential of individuals losing services in a place they have come to call home. We have found Senator Hanger to be open to hearing our concerns about the changes proposed to sponsored

residential services and we sincerely thank him for recognizing this important issue and sponsoring this amendment.

We also want to recognize Mike Tweedy, Legislative Fiscal Analyst for the Senate Finance Committee, for taking time to travel to the Lynchburg area and visit individuals and provider families who will be impacted by this. Mr. Tweedy saw first-hand the level of expertise needed to serve individuals who have been identified with this level of need, the difference sponsored residential makes in their lives, and how the sponsored model is uniquely set up to provide the level of service needed in the most integrated community setting, a family home.

Another important amendment added language to a measure which was already in place to review the impact of the changes in rates to licensed, professional sponsored residential support providers and the individuals receiving services. This amendment added other provider groups as participants in review of the data collected and requires a report on the findings of this analysis to the Governor and Chairmen of the money committees this fall. This is an analysis we will need to watch closely as the findings will impact our ongoing advocacy for increased rates to sponsored homes.



Finally, VNPP, the ARC of Virginia and others asked for a study of the SIS. The amendment reads:

- ◆ The Department of Medical Assistance Services, in collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, shall convene a stakeholder workgroup, to meet at least once annually, with representatives of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, the Virginia Network of Private Providers, the Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living, Virginia Association of Community Rehabilitation Programs (VaACCSES), the disAbility Law Center of Virginia, the ARC of Virginia, and other stakeholders including representative family members, as deemed appropriate by the Department of Medical Assistance Services. The workgroup shall: (i) review data from the previous year on the distribution of the SIS levels and tiers by region and by waiver; (ii) review the process, information considered, scoring, and calculations used to assign individuals to their levels and reimbursement tiers; (iii) review the

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Welcome Sessions

Wall Residences will be offering additional support to our new(er) providers who have been with us for a year or less (although anyone is welcome!) and an opportunity to learn more about the work that we do, and share the joys and the frustrations of this lifestyle you have chosen. We will include time for an opportunity to network with other providers. Topics will include – “nuts and bolts of being a contracted provider” i.e. hiring and supervising back up workers, troubleshooting documentation issues, locating quality healthcare providers, and whatever questions you want to ask. In addition, half of the time will be a more in-depth view of Person –Centered basics – what does “important to/important for”, “a life like yours?” and “bridge building” really mean as implemented in a service? This presentation will be offered throughout the state, by a Wall Residences QA Team member and will earn the participant 2 CEUs. Be on the lookout for a session scheduled close to you in the months of April through June.



Awards!



Jacob & Steven display awards with member of God's House staff & Donnell

Jacob Hairston and Steven Foley were recently awarded with certificates recognizing their volunteer work for God's Storehouse in Danville. In 2016, Jacob and Steven logged 105 hours and 125 hours of work respectively.



Donnell & Jacob hard at work

God's Storehouse collects and distributes food for those in need in Danville and Pittsylvania county. Both men, who live with Casey Thompson, look forward to volunteering weekly with backup worker Larry “Donnell” Daye. Jacob typically stocks shelves and Steven prefers to help recipients load their vehicles with food and return carts to the building. Congratulations on your awards and for providing such a valuable service to your community!

To Swim with a Dolphin

Mamie Allen has lived in Madison with the Dyer family since 2011. She has had a lifelong dream to swim with a dolphin since she was very young. She spoke of this often so that the Dyer's were compelled to help make it a reality. Recently, Mamie was taken on a cruise from South Carolina to the Bahamas. Her favorite stop was Freeport where she was finally able to fulfill her dream and "swim with the dolphins". She was very excited to have many pictures and a video captured. Mamie talks about this experience as being a "life changing" event and one she will never forget.



Mamie receives a dolphin kiss

Directors Corner continues

communication which informs individuals, families, providers, case managers and other appropriate parties about the SIS tool, the administration, and the opportunities for review to ensure transparency; and (iv) review other information as deemed necessary by the workgroup. The department shall report on the results and recommendations of the workgroup to the General Assembly by October 1 of each year.

While there were other amendments of importance which occurred during this time, these three will impact sponsored residential services and the individuals we serve the most. This year we will need to take an active part in making sure the impact of the rates on families and individuals is reported accurately to the Governor and Chairmen of the money committees and prepare for continued advocacy for sponsored residential this fall. When DMAS and DBHDS have finalized the process for ap-

plying for customized rates, we will begin applying for those who meet that criteria and need that level of support. When we see inconsistencies in the SIS process or data, or question inter-rater reliability, we will continue to help guardians and individuals navigate the review process.

As we continue to get closer to the proposed closing dates of the training centers, we will need more sponsored homes and options available in the community to serve individuals leaving those facilities. Southwest VA Training Center's proposed closing date is less than a year away and we continue to work



with our contracted providers and the state to make appropriate matches in the community.

Now that the waiver redesign has rolled out, we expect to see a renewed focus on coming into compliance with the HCBS Settings Rule, or "Final Rule", this year. Over a year ago, we began talking with contracted providers about this change and completed a self-study of the agency and each provider home. Meetings have already been set by DBHDS to review this rule with agencies in more detail and as we learn more, we will share the information with you. We are already hearing there will be another self-study completed and reports developed on how we will come into compliance.

Thank you to everyone who helped advocate for the individuals we support and the sponsored residential services that serve them. As I said earlier, many people together can move mountains.

Training On Changing Labor Law Standards

Our attorneys from Gentry Locke have informed us that labor law, as interpreted by the courts and as effects hourly workers, has significantly changed. Under new interpretation of the law, hourly workers must be classified as employees and given employment rights and benefits. In the past there has been discretion to classify many hourly workers as contractors. This is no longer the case. Learn about these new requirements at our labor law training on Thursday, March 30th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. This interactive program given by our labor

law attorney, Lindsey Coley of Gentry Locke, will take place at the Holiday Inn – Valley View, 3315 Ordway Drive NW, Roanoke. This session will be recorded so that those not able to attend can review the material later. Let us know if you plan to attend or want follow-up information.



A Tribute to Ed Pullen

We honor Ed Pullen, who lived with provider Laura Gunter and several housemates for over 12 years. Ed is moving on to a more medically-intensive placement. He has always been a complicated fellow, but his needs now exceed what can be provided at home. We'd like to share some of Ed's story with you.

Ed lived at CVTC from the time he was seven years old, until moving into the Gunter home in 2005. His mother stayed in touch with him until her health declined. Ed recently reconnected with his sister, who was also at CVTC for many years, and is now in a Wall Residences home nearby.

Ed had a lot of people who cared about him. In addition to long-term care from Laura Gunter and her dedicated back up workers, Ed had a volunteer guardian for many years, Ms. Linda Rodgers. Ed also had great support from Bridges Public Guardianship Program when Ms. Rodgers was not able to continue her role. His team of support included Bill Ewing, Carol Ewing, and Jay Kole. When Ed had some fairly

severe health complications in 2009, he received extra help from CVTC and Region Ten and was able to return home.

Ed never liked housework, but he loved getting outside, playing basketball, nature trails, eating ice cream and milkshakes, bowling, and playing around with staff who assist him. Ed was mischievous and would 'get' people nearby during personal care – such as spraying others with the water hose on his bed bath, or goosing people when they weren't expecting it. These interactions created great amusement and laughter for both Ed and his care providers.

Ed was a man of few words, but he made his likes and dislikes known through his smiles, facial expressions, pointing, reaching for things or pushing them away, hiding his head and peeking through his hands, and sneaking glances sideways. Ed dealt with his many challenges with humor, dignity and grace. He will be greatly missed in the Central Virginia area, and we wish him the best in his new home.



T: Ed enjoys beverage with backup worker.
M: Ed having an ice cream.
B: Ed on the porch.

Upcoming Provider Orientations

Join Our Team! Wall Residences is blessed with the best, most professional, and dedicated sponsored residential providers in the state. Wall Residences provides frequent training, and updates. We provide accurate, and timely information so that the providers we work with can make good decisions about their own lives as they operate their service.



We are growing! We are looking for the best Direct Support Professionals to join our team! Specifically, we are currently looking for Direct Support Professionals who are skilled with supporting individuals with nursing and behavioral needs with wheelchair accessible home to share in the Roanoke area. However, if you are dedicated to quality, person –centered services, and wish for quality support from a team of professionals – then call us!



Danville – April 10, 4-6pm
Central Virginia – April 19, 4-6pm
Danville – May 1, 4-6pm

Charlottesville – May 11, 3-5pm
Floyd / NRV – May 13, 10-1pm
Gloucester – May 25, 3-5pm

Wall Residences Honor Roll –2017

Celebrating Provider 5, 10, 15 & 20 year anniversaries



5-year Anniversary – started in 2012

Sally & Bill Koch	Jan 3	Christine McMakin	Jul 14
Brieann & Jason Hale	Jan 7	Rhonda & Tom Darragh	Jul 17
Doug & Angela Taylor	Feb 1	Alice Parker	Aug 6
Pamela & James Golas	Feb 1	Pamela Brooks	Aug 20
Jeffrey & Patty Shawver	Mar 5	Pamela & John Gough	Aug 31
Edward & Jill Payne	Mar 22	Kathy Wilkins	Sept 24
Robin & Steve Lambert	Mar 30	Bonnie & Larry Golliday	Oct 12
Tory & Lonnie Fitzgerald	Apr 2	Casey Thompson	Nov 1
Linda & Jerry Roach	Apr 4	Patricia Horton	Nov 1
Anthony & Cynthia Taylor	May 25	Jacob & Deborah Beamer	Nov 19
Angela & Robert Tolbert	May 28	LaDonna Byrd	Dec 1
Erin Quinn	Jun 1	Elizabeth Burford	Jun 5
Karen & Matt Doyle	Jun 8	Sue & Bill Gunter	Dec 3

10-year Anniversary – started in 2007

Linda Burks	Jan 2	Pamela & Arnold White	Mar 15
Bill & Nelda Hagerman	Jul 1	Ann & Wayne Moubray	Oct 1
Tammi Atwell & Dale Summers	Jan 3	Grady & Wendy Preston	Apr 21
Phebe Adrian & Derf Vondy	Aug 1	Tammie & Darryl Bryant	Nov 1
Michael Vercellino	Jan 22	Larra & Mark Koiner	May 1
Lonnie & Victoria Hitchcock	Aug 10	Susan Waggy	Nov 15
Erica Myers	Feb 3	Yolanda Chandler	May 23
Annabelle Hor ton	Sept 1	Jane & Walter McDaniel	Nov 21
Cora Martin	Feb 23	Fern Garner & Michael McCauley	Jun 1
Nancy Grubb	Sept 18	Marlene & Daryl Beckner	Dec 11

15-year Anniversary – started in 2002

Evelyn Distelhurst	April 1	David (Kevin) & Leigh (Nikki) Hieatt	Sept 1
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20-year Anniversary – started in 1997

Hollis Yeatts	Apr 1	Larry & Karen Sprouse	July 1
Catherine Morningstar	June 1	Rhonda & Bruce Norconk	Nov 1

Celebrating Employee 5 & 10 year anniversaries

10-year Anniversary – started in 2007

Kiana Anastopoulos	June 1	Keri Basham	Dec 17
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5-year Anniversary – started in 2012

Kim Snider	Mar 19	Alison Blevins	Oct 15
Angela King	May 29	Amy Braswell	Dec 3
Lisa McDaniel	May 31	Faye Tubbs	Dec 8
Jessa Layne	Jul 30	Deanna Rennon	Dec 17
Angela Newman	Aug 16		
Linnea Smith	Oct 1	Triona Bason	Mar 12



Artist Chase Riley was recently featured at the Roanoke Bagel Company, and did art show at the Farmers Market in Troutville. Look for more of his work on facebook - Art by Chase Riley.

Wall Residences

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WALL RESIDENCES
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Wishing you 
Sunshine!
FROM WALL RESIDENCES