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From Virginia Beach to St. Louis, homes enjoy vacations

As the summer winded to a close, many clients of CTF's CILA homes were able to enjoy vacations with their fellow residents. From an overnight trip to a Cubs-Cardinals baseball game, to a weeklong stay in a beach house next to the Atlantic Ocean, residents were able to enjoy time away from their day-to-day activities, bonding with housemates in the process.

The Whitetail CILA in Charleston enjoyed a trip to St. Louis on September 13 to see a Cubs-Cardinals game at Busch Stadium. Their overnight stay included rooms at the Crown

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Residents of the Wildwood CILA in Crete, IL enjoy an afternoon on Rudee's Dolphin Sightseeing Tour in Virginia Beach. The weeklong trip offered the residents an opportunity to relax and enjoy the beautiful sights of Virginia Beach and the Atlantic coast.

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CTF receives ARRA grant for job placement services

CTF was recently awarded a \$180,127 grant from DHS-ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). This 13-month grant will fund efforts to create jobs for rehabilitation services workers who will provide services that result in successful employment for individuals with disabilities.

CTF is one of 50 agencies in Illinois that were approved for funding as part of an \$8 million ARRA effort to create jobs and stimulate economic development. CTF is a not-for-profit agency that provides residential and developmental training for individuals with developmental disabilities.

"This is a wonderful opportunity," says Mike Brown, Vice President of Operations for CTF. "This grant will not just be for the individuals we currently serve, but we will also be providing services for any individual with any type of disability."

Nearly 1 in 5 Americans have some sort of disability. Employing an individual with disability makes good business sense. Having a disability outreach program can reduce turnover, reduce recruitment costs, provide tax credits, and develop customer outreach.

"A business is not only hiring a person

ARRA Grant, continued on Page 4

**CTF GETS \$10,000
FROM BLUE CROSS
AND BLUE SHIELD
OF ILLINOIS**

CTF has recently been recognized for its success in supporting people with disabilities by B C&BS of Illinois.

The \$10,000 grant will help CTF in its outreach efforts, along with providing help for its existing programs and services.

For more information about preventative care and wellness promotion, visit:

BCBSIL.com

Lawrenceville DT closes doors, merges with Olney location

The Lawrenceville Day Training Program merged its operations with the Olney DT on October 25. The consolidation of the two locations was done due to proposed changes to our lease that expired on October 31, and the state's worsening economic situation.

In order to accommodate the increase of individuals at the Olney site, bathrooms were added and a new curriculum and daily schedule will be implemented.

Overall, the consolidation will be a positive experience for both workers and clients. We anticipate better services, an excellent working

environment, and most importantly, no staff changes are expected due to the developmental day program consolidation.



The Lawrenceville Day Training Program closed its doors October 25, 2010. The site was in operation for five years and could service as many as 30 clients. With the closing of the Lawrenceville DT, clients from the location will now attend the Olney Day Training Program.

(Continued from page 1)

Plaza downtown, along with free food and drink vouchers at the ballpark. The donated tickets were appreciated by the residents, a few of whom engaged in friendly Cubs-Cardinals rivalry banter.

The Monee CILA took an extended trip to St. Louis in August, and in addition to seeing a Cardinals game, spent time at the St. Louis Zoo, Union Station, and toured the Gateway Arch.

Some homes ventured further than St. Louis, including the Onarga CILA in Park Forest. Their residents traveled to Nashville, TN, taking in the sights and even getting in the spirit of the home of the Grand Ole Opry, line dancing at Wildhorse Saloon. The trip was also a family affair, as one of the resident's elderly guardians lived in the Nashville area.

Residents of the Wildwood CILA in Crete traveled east, all the way to the coastal city of Virginia Beach. The weeklong trip included a stay at a beach house, along with plenty of fun activities, including a dolphin sightseeing boat

cruise, a trip to the Norfolk (VA) Zoo, and the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center. Capping off a great week, the residents visited Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, VA.

The vacations and trips offer a great opportunity for residents to spend time outside the home with one another, in addition to giving them all a well-deserved experience.

"The vacations created new life experiences, such as the thrill of the roller coaster, the fun of line dancing in a country and western restaurant, or how vast the ocean really is in person," said Melissa McDaniel, Vice President of South Suburban Operations.

"The vacation also gives them multiple opportunities for choice – such as where to stay, what to do, and how and when they want to do it, something that many have never experienced prior to living in the community," McDaniel said. "These vacations not only offer these great experiences, but also gives them a chance to form true friendships while creating memories of a lifetime."

Making a Match fundraiser to benefit CTF programs

Community Services Foundation is excited to announce the 2010 *Making A Difference . . . Making A Match* fundraising campaign. This annual event has been incredibly successful at providing assistance to Charleston Transitional Facility (CTF).

The State of Illinois has reduced, and in some cases eliminated, funding for programs that serve people with developmental disabilities and mental illness. As you may be aware, the State of Illinois is very far behind in making payments for the programs that they do fund. There is no room in agency budgets for new equipment or programs.

Together we can make a difference; through December 31, 2010, Community Services Foundation will match, dollar for dollar, your donations to CTF. Any size donation can make a big impact because of the matching dollars. For example, a \$100 donation, once matched, provides \$200 towards programs and services. Last year's donations resulted in a direct benefit to quality of life for individuals receiving services from CTF. We sincerely hope that you will help us make a difference again this year.

This year, the donations will be used to fund

weekend getaways and vacations for our CILA residents. The residents live on a very modest fixed income and are unable to afford this on their own.

CTF program staff feels strongly that the trips enhance residents' quality of life, and as such, these trips were incorporated into the CTF annual goals and objectives.

There is no dollar limit for individual donations. However, there is a \$500 limit per business donation to qualify for matching dollars. There is no limit on the number of donations an individual or business can make. Donations from non-profit organizations are not eligible for matching dollars.

Checks must be made payable to Community Services Foundation and can be mailed in the envelope included with this newsletter. Credit card donations can be made by going to csfil.org and clicking on the Network for Good link on the right of the page. Community Services Foundation is a non-profit exempt under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code. Donations are deductible to the extent allowed by IRS codes.

CTF welcomes new board members

CTF would like to welcome two new members to its Board of Directors: Dr. Christopher Higgins and Mr. Carl M. La Mell.

Dr. Higgins is owner and founder of Palos Behavioral Health Professionals in Palos Park, Illinois. His extensive experience has included positions as therapist, college faculty member, and clinical director.

Dr. Higgins currently oversees the daily operations at Palos Behavioral Health, including supervising the clinical staff and providing therapy to patients. In addition to serving on the CTF Board of Directors, Dr. Higgins is Chairman of the Board of Directors at Southwest Community Services (SCS).

Mr. La Mell is President and CEO of Clearbrook, an agency in Arlington Heights that serves both adults and children with developmental disabilities. In 2002, Clearbrook received the Agency of the Year Award from the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF).

Mr. La Mell currently serves on several boards across the state, including IARF, who advocate for people with developmental disabilities.

Dr. Higgins and Mr. La Mell join current board members - Chairperson, Charley Smith; Vice-Chairperson, Gene Frioli; and Secretary/Treasurer, Jeff Stauter.

QUESTIONS OR GENERAL CONCERNS?

Contact the Champaign
Business Office
by phone:

(217) 352-1557

For more information
on CTF's programs and
services, visit online:

CTFillinois.org

Ideas for the CTF
Employee Newsletter?
Send an email to:

**[michaelcarpenter
@ctfillinois.org](mailto:michaelcarpenter@ctfillinois.org)**

A message from CTF's interim CEO

I am sure all of you are aware that CTF's only CEO in its ten year history, Mark Klaus, resigned at the end of July to accept a position in San Diego. Mark did an incredible job for CTF; during his tenure, the agency tripled in size while maintaining very high standards of client care. His departure left a large void for us to fill at CTF.

When I was named interim CEO in August, I admittedly had some concerns about how we could continue to meet the high standards that had been set by Mark. These concerns were quickly eliminated as I began to work more closely with the operational VP's: Mike Brown, Melissa McDaniel, and Tracy Wavering. I have seen firsthand their dedication to our clients, and have come to realize how fortunate CTF is for having them lead the programming side of our business.

Each of these individuals are consummate professionals who, with their staff, work to make sure that CTF continues to operate at the level that our stakeholders, clients, and staff have come to expect from us.

Because of the state's worsening economic

situation, I feel some of the most challenging days are ahead for CTF. However, because of our dedicated staff, I feel very confident that we will be able to meet whatever challenges come our way, while continuing to empower individuals with developmental disabilities through our services and programs.

We have received some great news in the midst of troubling economic times; as mentioned on the front page of this newsletter, CTF was a recipient of an ARRA grant that will help us provide job opportunities in several East Central Illinois counties. Additionally, our 8th Annual Golf Outing has been scheduled for Friday, June 3 2011, in Charleston. This is our major fundraising event for the year; look for additional mailings on this in the future.

In closing, I'd like to say thank you for your support of CTF and its services!



Dennis Carpenter
Interim CEO/CFO

ARRA Grant, continued from page 1

with a disability, they are reaching out to that person's friends and family. In east-central Illinois, with the amount of people in the community who work in the human services field, this just makes good business sense."

Individuals must be at least 22 years of age at the time of referral and if served through the ARRA grant may not be provided services concurrently under any other Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) contract.

"CTF is working with DRS in order to identify individuals in the community who are not currently receiving services and provide assistance for them," says Brown.

DRS estimates that up to 150 jobs for rehabilitation service workers will be created in Illinois at community provider agencies and estimates that up to 1,500 employment opportunities will be established for individuals with disabilities as a direct result

of the efforts of the rehabilitation services workers employed through this initiative. This will strengthen the capacity of local service agencies such as CTF.

Illinois's economic situation is dire, especially in regards to providing services for individuals with disabilities. Many community agencies are facing financial situations that could be devastating for individuals with disabilities.

CTF has hired an Employment Procurement Specialist to start services. "This person will be responsible for contacting businesses in the region and developing partnerships with those that are interested in providing employment for individuals with disabilities," says Brown. CTF is in the process of hiring other support positions in order to implement the services outlined in the grant. This will include employment counselors and job coaches.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
DT AND OFFICES CLOSED
November 25-26

CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE
DT AND OFFICES CLOSED
December 24-27

NEW YEAR'S OBSERVANCE
DT AND OFFICES CLOSED
December 31

CTF GOLF OUTING
June 3, 2011



CTF