

# CTF NEWSLETTER

improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities

## IN THIS ISSUE

**EMPLOYEE  
SPOTLIGHT**  
Page 2

**HOMEWOOD  
SELF-ADVOCACY  
PROGRAM**  
Page 3

**CTF's ANNUAL  
GOLF OUTING**  
Page 4

## Organ donation gives CTF client a clean bill of health

Adam Eardensohn, a 29-year old client of CTF since May 2011, had been on dialysis for years. Since he began working with CTF, he had the procedure performed 3 times each week, preventing him from working and participating in certain activities. While dialysis allowed him to go about his day-to-day routine, a clean bill of health was still a kidney transplant away.

The first bit of good news came on August 17, 2011, when Adam's name came up on two transplant lists at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. RN Deb Cuddy began preparing Adam for the procedure, though no date was given; as with most organ transplants, it could be a matter of days, weeks, or even months.

While a few months passed, the New Year wasted no time ushering in exciting news

*Transplant, continued on Page 3*



Adam Eardensohn, a client of CTF, received a kidney transplant on January 5 after years of dialysis treatment. He is fully-recovered and in great health.

### CORPORATE OFFICE

1902 Fox Drive, Suite B  
Champaign, IL 61820  
PHONE: (217) 352-1557  
FAX: (217) 352-7166

### DOWNSTATE OFFICE

702 Jackson Avenue  
Charleston, IL 61920  
PHONE: (217) 348-8798  
FAX: (217) 348-8804

### SOUTH SUBURBAN OFFICE

17341 Palmer Boulevard  
Homewood, IL 60430  
PHONE: (708) 922-1532  
FAX: (708) 922-1526

### THE AUTISM PROGRAM

689 Castle Drive  
Charleston, IL 61920  
PHONE: (217) 348-3869  
FAX: (217) 348-3873

## High school transition program set to debut this summer

CTF is excited to announce a new program specifically for students with developmental disabilities. The High School Transition Program is set to begin in June at the Charleston and Olney Day Programs; the Homewood area is currently in the early stages of planning a similar program.

The program aims to introduce students to CTF's Developmental Day Program through an experience designed to help evaluate current work skills, emphasize employment readiness, and practice social and daily living skills. Additionally, it will provide

participation in paid piecework, along with on-the-job observation experiences.

"This is the first time we are offering the transition program," said Mike Brown, CTF's Vice President of Operations. "It will be a good introduction for high school students with developmental disabilities to our day training programs and the array of services provided by CTF."

The program is free for all participants. It is scheduled to run on three consecutive Tuesdays and Thursdays in June, beginning June 5 and 7.

HAVE AN IDEA FOR AN  
EMPLOYEE OR CLIENT  
SPOTLIGHT?

Send an email with  
your suggestion to

**michaelcarpenter**  
**@ctfillinois.org**

Be sure to  
include the name of  
employee along with  
their position.

All suggestions will  
be considered for  
possible inclusion in  
the next issue.

# Employee Spotlight



As the site supervisor for the Neola CILA in Park Forest, Deyone Harris has mastered the art of multi-tasking.

"I schedule and track activities, appointments, medications - basically the needs and wants of our clients," said Deyone.

Additionally, Deyone is responsible for the hiring, training, and scheduling of all staff at the Neola CILA.

## **Deyone Harris** SITE SUPERVISOR

Deyone has a bachelor's from St. Xavier University and is enrolling in a Master's program this fall. He is a die-hard Chicago sports fan, but his biggest source of pride is his 4-year old son Robert.

"I'm so happy and proud to be a father," said Deyone. "And I cannot wait until Robert is old enough so I can start coaching him and helping him along as well."



## **Ginger Wright** JOB COACH



Ginger Wright has been an employee of CTF since November 2005. As a Job Coach at the Charleston Day Program, she helps clients with vocational activities, including supervising a nightly cleaning crew at the local JC Penney's.

Outside of her work with CTF, Ginger has 2 children, 8 grandchildren, and a colorful assortment of pets - 3 yorkies and a poodle, a cat, and

an African grey parrot.

"Just when you have your heart full of love for family and friends, you meet the most wonderful people here at CTF," said Ginger. "Never a day goes by that someone does not have a smile for you as you walk in the door."

A fan of reading, Ginger always carries a book with her, "just in case I have a few minutes to read."



As the Site Supervisor for the Olney Day Program, Petra Henderson makes sure things run smoothly for the nearly 70 clients who attend.

"I work the floor, helping wherever is needed," said Petra. "I ensure clients needs are met, keep track of maintenance needs, and ensure company vehicles are in working order."

Petra, an avid motorcycle

rider and a proud grandparent, has been working with developmentally disabled clients since December 1999. She joined CTF in May 2009 as the Site Supervisor for the Lawrenceville DT, which merged with Olney in 2010.

"Clients make it fun to come to work," said Petra. "There is always something new they can teach me, and I enjoy teaching them, too."

## **Petra Henderson** SITE SUPERVISOR



# Self-advocacy group provides clients platform to speak out

The Homewood Day Program recently introduced a new Self-Advocacy Group for area clients (CILA, DT, and Home-Based). The new group was established to give clients a voice in a wide variety of matters.

"The Self-Advocacy Group provides our clients another opportunity to have a say in the services we provide for them," said Eric Edquist, CTF's Vice President of Operations in the South Suburbs. "It is a great and engaging way to hear directly from the clients on ways we can improve their services, and for them to voice general thoughts and concerns."

The first meeting took place on January 30, with monthly meetings scheduled throughout the year. Topics discussed at the meetings

*Transplant, Cont'd from Page 1*

for Adam. On January 2, CTF received a call that a kidney was available at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Kim Carmack, an Administrator in Charleston, drove Adam down to St. Louis.

"Adam was terribly excited, and really happy and talkative," said Kim. "Adam was admitted to the hospital, but before we even sat down, the nurse told us the transplant doctor needed to talk to us."

The doctor delivered the bad news. "He said there was a problem with the donor kidney," said Kim, "and they couldn't do the transplant."

"It took a while for that to get through to us," said Kim. "Adam was calm and mature about it, but he looked like he'd been kicked in the stomach. He said, 'Well, maybe I could still get a kidney someday, do you think?'"

Someday, in this case, came just two days later. On January 4, Adam was readmitted to the hospital, but there was still no certainty he would receive the transplant, as other patients were getting tests for compatibility with the kidney.

include ideas for client activities, volunteer opportunities, working in the community, and recommendations to the CTF staff.

The group's focus also goes beyond clients' day-to-day activities with CTF; they also plan on being active at rallies for developmentally disabled adults at the local and state level, including an upcoming rally in Springfield this June.

"So far, the participation has been excellent," said Eric Edquist. "While the group affords our clients a great opportunity to make their voice heard, it is also valuable for CTF as we strive to provide the best service possible."

The group has been officially recognized by The Alliance, an Illinois-based Self-Advocacy group ([selfadvocacygroup.org](http://selfadvocacygroup.org)).

"There was a lot of waiting this time around, and the nurse said that if he got the kidney, it would be the next morning," said Kim. "Morning came and they still hadn't decided he would get the kidney. But then again, they hadn't decided he wouldn't."

Finally, around noon on January 5, Adam received great news: he was chosen to receive the kidney transplant. He had successful surgery that same day, and now over three months later, he's doing better than ever.

"Adam's patience and words have truly been inspiring to anyone," said Alisha Walk, Adam's case manager. "He has been so calm and patient and so positive this entire time, through every dialysis appointment, getting sick, and the let-downs along the way."

"On the way home, all Adam wanted to know was if he could finally have a Whopper from Burger King," said Alisha. "We weren't even out of St. Louis yet and he was asking when we'd stop! When we did, it was great to see him enjoy his first Whopper in a very long time."

*Speak up and speak out;  
life is too short to be silent.  
Reaching for your dreams  
starts with a voice.*

**- Self-Advocacy Group  
Mission Statement**

## 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**

# CTF's Annual Golf Outing to raise funds for IAF

The 9th Annual CTF Golf Outing will take place on Friday, June 8 at the Bent Tree Golf Course in Charleston, IL.

All proceeds from the outing go to the Individual Assistance Fund (IAF), used specifically for items and activities that improve the lives of individuals receiving services from CTF. The 2011 golf outing raised over \$30,000 for the IAF.

"While we hold a variety of events throughout the year, the annual golf outing is our biggest fundraiser," said CTF's President/CEO Dennis Carpenter. "Not only is it a great fundraiser for the Individual Assistance Fund, but it's also a fun way to interact with fellow employees and stakeholders."

In addition to a round of golf, free lunch and dinner, complimentary beverages, and gifts and prizes throughout the day, participants can take part in a silent auction.

To best accommodate all participants, the 9th Annual Golf Outing has a wide variety of sponsorship levels to choose from:

- INDIVIDUAL GOLFER - \$100
- FOURSOME - \$400
- HOLE SPONSORSHIP - \$100  
Includes recognition at tee box
- BRONZE PAR - \$600  
One complimentary foursome, plus recognition at the golf outing and in the event's programs
- SILVER BIRDIE - \$1,500  
Includes the Bronze Par benefits plus an additional foursome (for a total of 2 foursomes)

- GOLDEN EAGLE - \$2,500  
Includes Silver Birdie benefits, plus sponsor identification on golf carts

Registration and lunch begins at 11:00am; the Shotgun Start to the scramble is at noon; finally, the event wraps up with awards, dinner, giveaways, and the silent auction beginning at 5:00p.m.

A registration form is included on the inside of this newsletter. The registration deadline is Friday, May 11. For more information, call Jane Cash at (217) 348-8798, ext. 129. Checks for donations, participation, and sponsorship can be mailed to the CTF 2012 GOLF OUTING, 521 7TH STREET, CHARLESTON, IL 61920.



CTF will host its 9th Annual Golf Outing on Friday, June 8 at Bent Tree Golf Club in Charleston, IL. The yearly event is a fundraiser for the Individual Assistance Fund (IAF), used for items and activities for CTF's clients.

CTF IS PROUD TO BE  
ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:



Member of the  
Illinois Association of  
Rehabilitation Facilities



Funded in part  
by the United Way  
of Coles County



Certified and Funded by  
the Illinois Department  
of Human Services

## CTF 9th Annual Golf Outing Registration

A registration form can be found on the inside of this newsletter. Simply fill it out, include payment, and send it by Friday, May 11 to:

**CTF 2012 GOLF OUTING**  
**521 7TH STREET**  
**CHARLESTON, IL 61920**

# CTF