



RICHMOND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Summer 2010 Newsletter

Message from Edward Spauster, Ph.D. President & CEO

There's no place like home. It's a place that is truly one's own, where you feel secure, comfortable and happy. You assume you will always have one and you are probably correct.

People with developmental disabilities can't always make that same assumption but Richmond is delighted to announce that in the coming months, eighteen people with developmental disabilities will be living in new homes in three different Westchester communities. And it is all due to the dedication of their families and friends, donors, concerned builders and local governmental officials, Richmond employees and the outstanding work of many staff members at our state Developmental Disability Services Office (DDSO). Together, we have created a true public-private partnership.

Creating homes in the community for people with complex health needs, many of whom use wheelchairs for all their movement from place to place, is a daunting challenge in today's

economy. Existing houses have to be redesigned and then carefully reconstructed. Interiors must be appropriately equipped and furnished so that the house is truly an accessible home.

For several months, our partnership has been working to achieve our dream. Family members are preparing their loved ones to move, seeking donations and planning an open house. Local officials are working closely with Fierro Contracting, our builder, to create a safe innovative structure. Contributions from Richmond donors supplement the funding available from New York State.

Behind the scenes but essential to the operation is our local DDSO. Our public partner identifies individuals in need of residential supports, provides us with ample guidance and encouragement, and assists us in finding economical solutions. These public servants make sure that people with developmental disabilities live safely, freely and happily and we are very fortunate to have such a steadfast and reliable partner.

This year, eighteen more people will have homes of their own thanks to the efforts of many. We thank all of our partners for their contributions.

Front row from left to right: Claudette Beckford, Carol St. John, Amy Coccodrilli

Back row from left to right: Paca Lipovac, Maryann Quill, Ira Rothenstein, Andrew Kaplan, Lewis Prescott, Marie Yizar



Richmond Community Services Foundation announces its 2010 officer appointments

Richmond is fortunate to have such an accomplished and dedicated group of volunteers working on behalf of the individuals with significant disabilities that we serve. The collective efforts of the entire Richmond Community Services Foundation Board in partnership with local Westchester communities has made a real difference in the lives of Richmond residents and day program participants."

David Brenner

Chairman of the Board
Richmond Community Services

The slate of officers of the Richmond Community Services Foundation for 2010-11 was voted on and approved at the February, 2010 meeting. Joe Pugni, Jr. of Vahalla, owner of Grayrock Memorial and Florist, was appointed Chairman of the Board, succeeding David Brenner. Joe has served as co-chair of the annual Wine Tasting and Auction for the past three years. Adam Kintish of Yorktown Heights, Vice President Regional Retail Market Manager of TD Bank, was appointed as Vice Chairman. Adam has served on many other not-for-profit boards in the Hudson Valley Region. Carol Madole from Chappaqua was appointed Secretary. Carol has been a dedicated volunteer for the past five years, including her role as co-chair of last year's Wine Tasting Event. Paula Barbag of Chappaqua and Director of Marketing and

Development for Richmond, was appointed as Treasurer. Edward Spauster, President and CEO of Richmond will continue to serve as President of the Foundation Board. Other Board members include: Donna Torre, M.D., Rick Beckerman, Michael Berr, Gerard Bernacchia, David Brenner, Michael Finkelstein, M.D., Susan Goldman, Ken Mahoney, and Ravi Sarma.

*From left to right:
Joe Pugni,
Adam Kintish,
Carol Madole.*



United Spirit League:

Bringing smiles through physical activity

Richmond is getting into the Spirit!

The United Spirit League, that is. The United Spirit League provides a way for people who participate in day programs to engage in recreational offerings such as soccer, polo or basketball, and then compete in an interagency league. At Richmond, people participate in at least one League activity each week. Activities also include tennis, trivia contests, spelling bees, poled croquet, bowling and even Wii tournaments. Richmond has hosted Wii Tournaments as well as trivia competitions. United Cerebral Palsy of Westchester welcomes people from other agencies to utilize its facilities for many of the remaining activities and competitions.

In addition to the benefits of physical activity, participating in the League has given the people Richmond supports an opportunity to become acquainted and friendly with people from other agen-

cies. According to Shannon Shapiro, Richmond's MOVE Program Supervisor in Mount Kisco, "It has been an adventure getting involved with the Spirit League. Participants are having so much fun! It's great to see people enjoy themselves, be actively engaged in new activities and socialize with peers."

The United Spirit League was developed in 2008. The league is on its way to full interagency collaboration throughout Westchester County, with eight agencies currently participating. Richmond has been involved with the League for about a year, and is part of an effort to spread the word to additional organizations about the program's benefits. Richmond is committed to advocating for and showing how to provide activities successfully for individuals with a wide range of physical disabilities. Now, that's the Spirit!



Kristen playing soccer at United Spirit League event

Funfest 2010

Celebrating Our Differing Abilities for 27 Years

The name says it all. FunFest is one of our most eagerly anticipated celebrations that bring out smiles from the people we support as well as their families. The June 6th event includes a barbeque, entertainment and an array of lively carnival activities.

As always, donors have an opportunity to support Funfest by taking an ad in the journal, which this year is dedicated to David Brenner, Chairman of the Board, for his voluntary leadership and more than twenty years of generosity.

We have also added two new components to help make Funfest even more meaningful and at the same time foster the values of volunteerism throughout the broader community.

The first is our "Buddy for the Day" program. Because more than 100 of the people we support will not have a family member on hand to participate, we have created a way for these

residents to still have someone to share the day with. Volunteers can be a buddy for these individuals and provide the priceless gift of companionship.

The second is for volunteers to share their passion for people with developmental disabilities by helping us raise valuable funds to support our programs. Firstgiving.com/richmond is a website that allows volunteers to create their own webpage through which their friends and family can make donations directly to Richmond.

For more information on Funfest, please contact:

Elyse Allbee, Manager of Recreation and Volunteer
914.968.1900 ext. 5080
eallbee@richmondcommserv.org

Sharing Our Expertise

On April 21-23, Jacqui Phillips, Director of Quality Management and Training and Pam Peterkin-White, Human Resource Manager, presented a workshop at the New York State Association of Community and Residential Agencies (NYSACRA) Conference in Lake George, New York. NYSACRA is a catalyst and leading advocate for people who have developmental disabilities and the organizations that support them.

Jacqui and Pam's presentation was entitled "The Manager as Coach." In their presentation, the Richmond experts defined coaching, identified coaching opportunities, and illuminated learning communication techniques. Their presentation provided insights into a manager's coaching style and illustrated various tools managers can use to implement coaching strategies. The Richmond team also stressed the importance of ongoing feedback in order to enhance an employee's performance.

The April event was NYSACRA's 33rd annual conference designed to provide professional development and networking opportunities for people who work in agencies similar to Richmond. There were thirty-five workshops in addition to the session led by Richmond staff members, a pre-conference session devoted to technology, and numerous dynamic presentations with insightful keynote speakers.

Richmond Recognizes Its Volunteers

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless," said Joy Ovadek at Richmond's Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.



From left to right: Joy Ovadek, Helaine Rizzo and Elyse Allbee

Joy, a steady volunteer for years, was asked to share her experiences at Richmond's Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, Tuesday, April 20th, 2010. Joy told the other attending guests and volunteers how she began at Richmond by teaching a computer class to the administrative staff. Once that task was completed, Joy wanted to do more with the organization because she realized that Richmond had become like another family to her. Currently, Joy is tutoring an individual who is interested in getting his GED. Joy not only feels she is teaching someone new skills but also that she is learning a great deal and reaping tremendous intrinsic rewards.

Another special friend of Richmond, Helaine Rizzo, a teacher at Roosevelt High School in Yonkers, is dedicated to educating young people about the value and importance of giving back to the community. For the past four years, she has been bringing her students to volunteer at Richmond a couple of times per week.

These are only two of more than forty volunteers who have dedicated their time and were honored at the luncheon. Elyse Allbee, Manager of Volunteers/Recreation thanked all of the volunteers for their invaluable support!

Community Outreach: Creating Bridges between the Community and Richmond

When people from the community get to know Richmond, many good things happen. Whether it is addressing spiritual needs of the people we support, recruiting students for community service projects and internships or providing cultural enrichment for our residents, our community outreach program focuses on making connections to improve the physical and emotional well being of the people we support. Our outreach efforts also aim to increase Richmond's visibility, educate the broader community about people with developmental disabilities and expand our volunteer program.

We have hired Community Relations Specialist, Stacy Lynn Rivera to work with Elyse Allbee, Volunteer/Recreation Manager

to facilitate the goals of our community outreach program. Stacy has a wide range of different experiences, from working off-Broadway to working as a Residential Manager at an individualized Residential Alternative (IRA) for people with developmental disabilities. She looks forward to applying her theatrical and clinical background, to matching the needs of Richmond with the interests of people and organizations from the community.

Richmond is grateful to Ravi Sarma, a brother of a Richmond resident and Foundation board member, and TD Bank for generously supporting our community outreach program.

You can double or triple your contribution...

Without spending another cent!

As part of our effort to maximize every possible funding stream, we want to alert you to the ease and value of corporate Matching Gift Programs. Did you know that many businesses and corporations will match your personal giving? If you take just a few moments to find out if your employer offers a matching gift program, then your gift to Richmond can double or even triple in value.

Here's what one valued donor had to say about matching gifts:

A matching gift program is a win-win proposition; enhances Richmond's ability to support its mission and provides your employer an opportunity to give back to the community. I encourage you to take the extra step and register your donation with your company.

Lisa Green

Won't you check with your employer and see if you can join other Richmond supporters and have your gift do double duty today?



RICHMOND
COMMUNITY SERVICES

272 North Bedford Road
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Summer 2010 Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

FUNFEST

Celebrating our differing abilities for 27 years.
A Family Carnival and Barbeque for individuals with
developmental disabilities and their families

Sunday, June 6
11:30am–4:00pm

Richmond Community Services
919 North Broadway, Yonkers, NY

SUMMER ROCK CONCERT

An employee coordinated event to raise funds to
build an outdoor recreation area

Saturday, July 24
7:30pm

Rosenthal JCC of Northern Westchester
600 Bear Ridge Road, Pleasantville, NY

GIVE THRU GOLF

Enjoy a day of golf, followed by a dinner reception
and auction. Don't Golf? Attend Dinner or Sponsor
Our Outing

Monday, August 2
9:00am breakfast, 10:30am Putting and Chipping
Contest, 12:00pm shotgun and 4:30pm cocktails,
dinner and auction

Old Westbury Country Club
270 Wheatley Road, Old Westbury, NY

FABULOUS WINE TASTING

An enchanting evening of wine tasting and live
auction

Saturday, November 6
6:30pm–8:30pm

Richmond Community Services
272 North Bedford Road, Mount Kisco, NY

For more information, please contact
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Development at 914.471.4131 or
pbarbag@richmondcommserv.org