



Handshakes & Hellos

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Photo Gallery



^^ National Special Olympics
Robert Warren left to compete in Bocce Balls for the National Special Olympics held in Princeton, New Jersey.



<< Building Dedication

The Developmental Training Building was dedicated and renamed the Romi Halterman Developmental Training Building in honor of Romi Halterman who passed away in 2010. Romi and Jerry were benefactors of highest distinction.



<< Cutting for a Cause

Antonio Scalora hosted the 7th annual fundraiser at his salon. The event raised over \$2,500 for the agency.

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Welcome Letter



This summer, our agency honored two women who have been huge contributors to our agency, Romi Halterman and Jane McCormick. As mothers, both worked to expand services not only for their children, but to also meet the needs of all adults with disabilities. Their dreams for the future were supported by dedicated board members like Rich Brooke.

For nearly 40 years, Rich Brooke has served on our Board of Directors. Throughout his tenure, he's helped the agency grow to meet its mission: improving the quality of life for men and women with intellectual disabilities. Rich's volunteer efforts far surpassed attending monthly board meetings; he actively helped secure funding for services. Whether it was participating in fundraising events or seeking State and County aid, he committed 100%.

This spring, Rich announced that he would be retiring and would not seek another term on the board. Ottawa Friendship House would like to thank him for his years of dedication. He was instrumental in laying a strong foundation for the future.

Filling Rich's vacancy, we are pleased to introduce our newest board member, Kurt Stevenson. While Rich has left quite a legacy, we are confident in the knowledge and commitment Kurt brings to the table. Welcome!

- Beth Mangold, Executive Director

>> Members of the First Presbyterian Church of Ottawa participated in their second annual Acts of Kindness. Volunteers conducted a spring cleaning effort in our kitchen and cafeteria.

>> The Board of Directors passed a motion to obtain ownership of Sullivan and Glenwood Houses, both 16-bed homes.

>> The agency teamed up with the Kids Golf Foundation to host a summer golf program on campus for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

>> Ottawa Friendship House launched a summer recreation program for any individual 14 years or older with intellectual challenges. Photography, Jewelry Making, and Line Dancing classes were offered.

>> A Lawn Social was held at the home of Jim and Wava Riley in honor of Jane McCormick, one of the founding parents of Ottawa Friendship House.

>> The Ottawa Elks Lodge presented a check for \$2,000 to support our Dental Clinic.

>> The 5th annual Concert at Covell Creek featured the Chicago Brass Quintet with special guest, Ottawa native Tod Bowermaster of the St. Louis Symphony. A rainy day forced the event indoors for the first time, but over 300 attended, raising over \$10,000.

>> Pavers and More donated and installed three new fountains in the brick garden. The fountains represent three basic programs at the agency: learn, live, and work.

>> Rich Harvest Farms donated specialized golf equipment and a golf cart to Ottawa Friendship House.

Highlights

Beth Mangold
Executive Director

Bob Agostinelli

Daniel Reynolds
President

Randy Gregor
Katie Heft

Arnold Bandstra
Vice President

John Houlihan

Bonnie McGrogan
Secretary

Brian Hughes
Richard Myers

Kathy Geiger
Treasurer

Kurt Stevenson

OTTAWA FRIENDSHIP HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ottawa Friendship House is a
United Way Partner Agency

Contributions to our local United Way's annual giving campaign help to support our Developmental Training and Workshop programs.

Residential Spotlight

Effective September 4, Sullivan House and Glenwood House residential care facilities began operation under the direction of Ottawa Friendship House.

Earlier this year, Steve Gomes, president of the two residential homes, announced his intent to retire which then prompted officials at Ottawa Friendship House to pursue an expansion of services.

“The relationship between these agencies is longstanding,” explained Friendship House Executive Director Beth Mangold. “For the past 27 years, we have worked with both organizations to offer resources including day programming and residential living.”

The opportunity to build upon those existing relationships allowed Friendship House to kick start a three-year plan for residential expansion. As a result, adults with disabilities will benefit from having both an increased selection of housing and an increased opportunity to participate in the community.

“Acquiring these two new homes was really the first step of many,” said Mangold. “We’ll continue to keep our eyes and ears open for opportunities to expand. By year three, our goal is to have offered all consumers the option of CILA housing with eight beds or less,” she said.

The Illinois Department of Human Services defines CILA as “a living arrangement for adults (age 18 and older) in a group home, family home or apartment where 8 or fewer unrelated adults with developmental disabilities live under supervision of the community developmental services agency. Residents receive complete and individualized residential habilitation, personal support services and supports under the direction of a community support team within the local agency.”

At the time of the transition, Sullivan and Glenwood Houses operated as 16-bed facilities. Friendship House officials plan to decrease their capacity to eight beds. Not counting the two new homes, four on-campus homes are currently offered at Friendship House. Four semi-independent adults live in each home and have the support of a resident aide who resides on campus.

Another goal of the expansion is to purchase an additional residential home, Mangold said. While a location has yet to be selected, one detail is certain. The new home will be named after Jane McCormick, founding parent of Ottawa Friendship House.

“We held a small ceremony for Jane and her family earlier this year where we gave her a lifetime achievement award on behalf of the agency,” said Mangold. “We also announced that we had plans to name a residential home in her honor.”

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: HONORING JANE McCORMICK

You can never underestimate the power of a woman!

In the early 1950s, there were no special education mandates; programming for children with disabilities did not exist. Rather than viewing her son’s Down syndrome as a disability, one young mother saw things differently. Jane McCormick saw her son’s potential and worked with him at home, watching him achieve things

“It is an honor to present Jane McCormick with a lifetime achievement award. She has forever changed the lives of men and women with intellectual challenges.”



Jane (Schwerdtfeger) McCormick, second from right, accepts her lifetime achievement award along with family members Mike Mussallem, Gary Schwerdtfeger, and Linda (Schwerdtfeger) Mussallem.

that professionals had not thought possible. She knew that her son and others would benefit from daily structured programs.

In 1953, she organized a group of mothers who had children

with special needs. The group was called the Mother’s Club for Exceptional Children. This group of women knocked on doors, wrote letters, held special events and developed a curriculum.

In June of 1955, the group offered six-week summer courses for children with disabilities that were so successful that a fall session was added. That was the beginning of special education services in LaSalle County.

As the children grew to reach adulthood, they needed to have purpose and meaning in their lives. In 1966, after a year

of planning and saving enough money for three months of operating costs in the treasury, the group planned and prepared to open a sheltered workshop at the John F. Kennedy Union Center with 8 to 10 individuals ready to work. Jane was quoted in the paper, “For the first time in their lives, they will receive a paycheck regularly for providing practical services; they have a job and feel useful in the community.”

Forty-eight years later, we have about 100 individuals enrolled in programs and 27 staff members. We’ve also surpassed that very first budget, currently operating at 2.6 million.

Jane’s shared vision and determination continues today. She set the groundwork to give individuals with disabilities a chance to develop skills so that they can live with dignity and independence.



Donations

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Mike and Linda Mussallem

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Gary and Joyce Halm
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Randy and Judy Rosengren
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