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A Quarterly Publication from Ottawa Friendship House

Spring 2014



Handshakes & Hellos

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Your friends at Ottawa Friendship House appreciate your support!



Upcoming Events

June 19, 2014

Building Dedication in Memory of Romi Halterman

Ottawa Friendship House campus
1718 N. 2525 Road | South Ottawa

Program from 1:30 to 2:00 pm
Refreshments offered following program

Please join us for a brief ceremony honoring Romi Halterman as we dedicate our Developmental Training Building in her memory. A longtime member of the Human Rights committee at Friendship House, Romi was a proud supporter of the agency. She and husband Jerry have been recognized as Benefactors of Highest Distinction thanks to their generous donations throughout the years. The Friendship House choir is scheduled to perform.



>> June 29, 2014 Cutting for a Cause

Antonio Scalora and top Chicago hair designers donate their time and talent for the eighth year. Receive a haircut and milkshake treatment at D'Antonio Hair Design for a \$30 contribution. Fresh grilled food will also be available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the agency. For more info, call (815) 431-1272.

>> August 23, 2014 Concert at Covell Creek

We welcome The Chicago Brass Quintet back to our picturesque stage for our fifth annual concert! We've made some exciting changes this year and hope you'll make plans to join us. Tickets are now available. Call or email us to reserve yours!

contact us

815.434.0737
friends@ottawafriendship.com
www.ottawafriendship.com

Welcome Letter



We are pleased to introduce Rich Myers as a new board member. He fills an open seat vacated by the passing of longtime friend Ed Whitney. While Ed had some large shoes to fill, we're confident that Rich is up to the challenge.

"I'm very honored to serve on the Friendship Facilities Board," said Rich. "I am well aware of their great services provided to our community and the commitment by so many affiliated with this organization."

Retired from a lifelong career in education, Rich served in many capacities ranging from a fourth grade teacher to his most recent role of Regional Superintendent of Schools for LaSalle County. His service to the community doesn't stop there.

At an early age, Rich grew up watching his parents offer facility services to Friendship House and ECHO School. He even spent a summer in college driving a truck for the workshop program at Friendship House. Rich has also served on the LaSalle County Mental Health Board and Ottawa Recreation Board. He currently serves on the Opportunity Preschool Board.

We think that the wealth of knowledge and experience Rich offers will be a tremendous asset to our agency. Welcome!

- Beth Mangold, Executive Director

>> The BOBS Friends endowment fund received a donation of \$15,000 from the late Melvin and Margaret Ohlendorf's estate. Their children Jim Ohlendorf and Becky Foster were pleased to make the contribution in their honor.

>> Proceeds from the annual K of C Tootsie Roll Sales funded the installation of automatic doors to the agency's administration building this April. The upgrade offers consumers improved accessibility to the Fireside Room, home to many classes and activities.

>> SIGMA Marketing and Friendship House celebrated 40 years of working together in calendar assembly. In honor of this partnership, SIGMA Marketing donated \$1,000 to the agency.

>> Consumers in the residential program enjoyed an Elvis (impersonator) Concert at Ottawa Township High School.

>> The Bridge to Friendship program with Marquette Academy allowed consumers the opportunity to enjoy a magic show, a play, and bowling this February, March, and April.

>> Consumers who successfully completed the lawn care program offered through the agency were hired by the City of Ottawa to provide lawn care in the city parks.

>> Robert Warren, one of our consumers, was selected to play on the Illinois Bocce Ball Team at the National Special Olympics to be held this June in Princeton, NJ. Go Robert!

>> Family and friends of the agency enjoyed tours and refreshments during the April 15 open house.

Highlights

Beth Mangold
Executive Director
Bob Agostinelli

Daniel Reynolds
President
Arnold Bandstra

Rich Brooke
Randy Gregor
Katie Heft
John Houlihan

Bonnie McGrogan
Secretary
Brian Hughes

Kathy Geiger
Treasurer
Richard Myers

>> Second Cup on 1430-AM WCMY Monday, June 9, 2014 @ 10:40 a.m.

Join us for an "on air" segment featuring Leah, this issue's featured consumer (see her story on the next page). She will be joined by staff members Beth Mangold and Melissa Hulse who will also fill you in on the June building dedication.



OTTAWA FRIENDSHIP HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DEVELOPMENTAL TRAINING OFFERS CHANCE TO LEARN NEW SKILLS & ACHIEVE DREAMS:

Although Leah was born with Down syndrome, she has never let this be a barrier to achieving her dreams of having a job and living independently. Leah's family believed and supported her dreams of independence. After graduating from high school, she moved to her own place, a 16-bed group home in Ottawa. This gave her the opportunity to learn the skills she needed such as meal planning and preparation, laundry and house-keeping skills.

During the first years of attending the Developmental Training program at Ottawa Friendship House, Leah worked each day on pre-vocational training, social skills, and life skills. As she developed these new skills, Leah moved closer to moving to her own home and gaining independence.

Consumer Spotlight



Leah knows that her dream of having a place of her own cannot happen without the necessary finances that would come from a job. During the past five years, Leah has been working at the workshop within the agency. She has developed the job skills and work attitudes that would make her a great candidate for employment. She is mindful of the procedures and policies that guide the workplace. As an elected member of the Advisory Council, she was instrumented in rewriting the consumer handbook that outlines good work practices.

Although Leah worked in the workshop and had the opportunity to make an income, she still had a >>

the annual **spring fundraising** event held at **JJ's Pub in March** raised over **\$19,700**

true desire to work in the community and increase her earning potential. Leah is a people person and would love a job that she could have the opportunity to interact with people in the community.

Leah's case manager reviewed her progress in her pre-vocational skills and saw that she would be a great candidate for community employment and referred her to Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). Her case manager helped her complete and submit the necessary paperwork so that her case could be opened with DORS. The employment specialist and the DORS case manager met with Leah to determine her skill sets and what kind of employment she would like to seek.

After the initial meeting with DORS, the employment specialist met with Leah and discussed the new community jobs that would be available at Goodwill. The job paid minimum wage, and she would work

thank you

...to the local businesses and individuals for your contributions toward our raffles and live auction

...to those of you who bought a ticket, purchased items, donated toward the cause and helped make the event an overwhelming success

during the day, 7 hours each work week. Transportation would not be a problem since the NCAT operated during this time frame. Leah thought that this would be perfect place for her to work! Together with her case manager, she completed the application and hoped that she would be called for an interview.

Leah got that call that she was waiting for and interviewed for the position. She was notified a week later that she had gotten the job. During her first 15 days of employment, Leah attended orientation classes and worked with a job coach so she could learn the skills necessary for her job. Leah then sailed through her 90 days of employment with no concerns from her job coach.

When asked what Leah likes best about her job -- other than a paycheck -- she will flash you a great smile and say, "the employee discount!"

HOW TO HELP: Funding is an important component to the success of Ottawa Friendship House. In late 2012, the agency's Board of Directors passed a resolution establishing an endowment program called "BOBS Friends," honoring the late brother of the program's initial donor and creator.

An endowment is a restricted fund which preserves the capital. Only the interest from the fund can be spent, not the principal that anchors the endowment. Typically, the interest or annual earnings from the endowment (usually 5%) are spent each year. The remainder is left to help the fund grow over time and to assure it can produce more while allowing the fund to keep pace with inflation.

BOBS Friends will fund future needs of the agency and provide comfort to donors, knowing that Ottawa Friendship House will continue to grow well into the future.

Donors who make arrangements for a future gift will be recognized and honored through the provisions of the endowment program. Contributions may be made in one or more of the following ways:

- Making an outright gift of money, securities, property or other marketable assets
- Creating a charitable remainder trust or life estate gift to benefit Ottawa Friendship House
- Naming Ottawa Friendship House as a beneficiary of a new or existing life insurance policy
- Naming Ottawa Friendship House to receive a bequest in a will or living trust

For more information about BOBS Friends or to learn how to make a donation, call 815.434.0737 or email friends@ottawafriendship.com.

Changing disabilities into Abilities

Donations

BOBS Friends Endowment
Melvin & Margaret Ohlendorf estate

General Donations

James and Mary Jane Ausseum
AXA Match
Blake Cook
Peter and Cathy Cook
Mike Crowley

Exelon Match
Carl and Diane Gill
John and Jan Guyette
Key West Lady Tourists
Joe and Janet Martin
Ottawa Lions Club
Dana and Vivian Reding
SIGMA Marketing
Tom and Leslie Ziel

Memorials

In Honor of Evelyn Armstrong
Dennis and Elizabeth Blackford
Financial Plus Credit Union
First National Bank
Michelle Freschi
C. Gaede
Jacqueline Janka
Peggy Keeny

Mark and Dawn Kolotka
Richard and Beth Mangold
Jami Muffler
Deborah Myer
Loretta Otsby
Paul and Deborah Sweeden
Steve and Nan Taller
Donna Wahlstrom
Robin and Annette Walters

February 1, 2014 - April 30, 2014

In Honor of Will Fredericks
Orville and Delores Eltrevoog

In Honor of Henry Paulson
Rosy, Sofy and Tilly Paulson

In Honor of Valentine Polancic
Keely Law Office

In Honor of Ed Whitney
Dorothy Boisso
Law Office of Peter Ferracuti