



Handshakes & Hellos

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Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 22, 2015
Concert at Covell Creek

*Outdoor elegance. Musical splendor.
A picnic with pizzazz.*



Concert at Covell Creek

Ottawa Friendship House | 1718 N. 2525 Road, Ottawa
5:00 - 8:00 pm | \$20.00 adults; \$10.00 children

Classical music and nature lovers alike can enjoy an outdoor concert featuring the talented, world-class **Chicago Jazz Septet**. Set against a picturesque Covell Creek backdrop, the event invites concert-goers to pack their picnic baskets, a bottle of wine and a cozy blanket for optimal viewing enjoyment.



All proceeds remain local and help support the agency.

>> Thursday, July 23rd
Beginning at 10:40 a.m.

Join us for an "on air" segment with Karen Rhodes of 1430-AM WCMY's Second Cup. Karen will host Travis Rosenthal, executive director of the Chicago Jazz Septet to talk about the upcoming concert. Enjoy a sneak peak! Travis will share details about the performers along with what musical pieces to expect.



contact us

815.434.0737
friends@ottawafriendship.com
www.ottawafriendship.com

>> Developmental Training program receives perfect score on Department of Human Services survey.

>> Friends, Food and Fun...raising! event brought in the largest amount of revenue in the history of the agency.

>> 21 Marquette students provided Christian service hours at OFH. Some of the students participated in classroom activities with the consumers, and others did a wonderful job spring cleaning our cafeteria.

>> OFH was selected as a site for an 8-week summer internship program with Notre Dame.

>> Consumers in the residential program enjoyed a pizza outing with Marquette students through the Bridge to Friendship Program.

>> 29 consumers participated in the Spring Track and Field Events at the Special Olympics in Spring Valley. 14 qualified to participate at the State Olympics on June 12 and 13.

>> St. Joseph Knights of Columbus in Marseilles presented a check for \$842.60 from Tootsie Roll sales.

>> Staff and consumers volunteered at an aid station for the Starved Rock Country Marathon.

>> Members of the Presbyterian Church and Calvary Baptist participated in an Act of Kindness Sunday and painted picnic tables and benches.

>> 9 IVCC nursing students completed 4 hours of observation at OFH.

>> Illinois Department of Public Health survey of Glenwood House received a perfect score.

Welcome Letter



The difference between ordinary and extraordinary services provided at Ottawa Friendship House can certainly be attributed to an incredible staff and board of directors.

This spring, our Special Olympic participation was questionable due to the availability of volunteers and funding for staff. So in typical Friendship fashion, the staff rallied. They recruited their significant others, family and friends to coach.

Everyone volunteered their time, and to quote one staffer the day of the games, she said, "This is the best day of the year. I love it!" As I watched the staff interaction with 29 athletes from our agency, it was obvious that the staff was having as much fun as the consumers. What a dynamic atmosphere!

This is not an uncommon occurrence at our agency. We have a staff of 49 employees dedicated to providing the best support to the consumers in a warm and nurturing environment. These are men and women who will never be monetarily rich by dedicating their lives to this field; but they are truly rich spiritually.

As our agency moves forward in expanding residential services in our community to smaller homes of eight or less individuals, the board of directors has toured homes and discussed the best options in providing residential supports. Their guidance and commitment to the agency's future have been extraordinary.

We are so pleased to have had Mike Matteson join our board this past May. He brings both compassion and understanding, as a brother of a consumer, as well as a business and educational background, as the Superintendent of Wallace and Rutland Grade Schools.

It is such a privilege to be in a leadership role with a staff and board dedicated to our mission of improving the quality of life for men and women with intellectual challenges. We look forward to taking on the challenges for the future so that our agency can continue to grow to meet the needs of the consumers.

- Beth Mangold, Executive Director

Highlights

OTTAWA FRIENDSHIP HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beth Mangold
Executive Director

Bob Agostinelli

Daniel Reynolds
President

Randy Gregor
Katie Heft

Arnold Bandstra
Vice President

John Houlihan

Bonnie McGrogan
Secretary

Brian Hughes
Michael Matteson

Richard Myers
Treasurer

Kurt Stevenson

THE PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE: A LETTER FROM THE HETTEL FAMILY

Our daughter Melinda is 30 years old! I cannot imagine how this happened! Just yesterday she was our "peanut" ...so tiny, so fragile, so needy. Born with Down Syndrome, Melinda was sickly as an infant and required much care.

If we could have looked into the future, we would never have believed what a fine, beautiful woman she would become. Back then, we just took one day at a time and took care of her the best we knew how, learning so much along the way. Many days, we were weary and our thoughts dark as to her future. We worried so about everything from health, to education, to friendships, to bullying. If only we knew then what joys she would bring us daily and what wonderful people we would meet who would impact our lives in such a positive way. We stressed needlessly.

After high school, Melinda began to attend Ottawa Friendship House. Right here, in our own area, we have the most wonderful facility for people with disabilities. From the very beginning, Melinda loved being there. Her adjustment was so smooth, we were amazed. The staff, the programming and the social activities all contributed to this adjustment.

We literally watched our daughter thrive and mature before our eyes. We noticed that she talked more and used new words, plus she was more assertive and self-confident. We were thrilled - and still are - as she continues to amaze us with her "abilities." Melinda is so happy at Friendship House that she does not want to miss a day, ever!

If we know one thing about our daughter, it's that she would not be so happy if she were not welcomed with the unconditional loving atmosphere that all consumers receive each and every day at Friendship House. Need I say more?

It will be four years this August that Melinda moved from our home into Sullivan House (now a part of Friendship House facilities). Wow! That was a big step for us all! When we were approached that there was an opening for her, we were happy/scared!

When we asked her about making the move, she was all for it. We were afraid that she would be happy there for a week or two, like a honeymoon, but would want to come home. She went for a weekend trial, then again for a two week stay. Then we moved her in, and she has never looked back!

Agency Spotlight



Sullivan House is her home, and she is so very happy there. When we ask her if she would like to come back home to live, she says, "I like it here!" That's all we need to know!

Of course, again, Sullivan House is a mere fifteen minute drive from our house. We see her often - at least twice a week for her bowling league and church. She often stays overnight at our house, but she is ready to return to Sullivan House the very next day. We have the best of both worlds... independence for Melinda, and the proximity to visit her often. I don't know if we could handle not being able to see our lovely daughter as often as we do.

Soon, as the Friendship House facilities grow and develop, she will be moving into a CILA home with three other females to live even more independently. She talks about this all the time and embraces the change with anticipation and eagerness... a new chapter yet to unfold.

When Melinda was a baby, we worried so much about her future, especially someday when we would be gone. Now we know that we needn't have worried! She has a network of family, friends and staff, both at Friendship House and Sullivan House, who will help her to be happy and live a productive, joyous life in the event of our passing.

And to think, it was right here in our own community all the time! We are so blessed! Thank you!

Very Sincerely,
Albert and Julie Hettel



Sunday, August 16, 2015 Picnic in the Park!

presented by the Ottawa-Naplate
Hospitality and Beverage Association

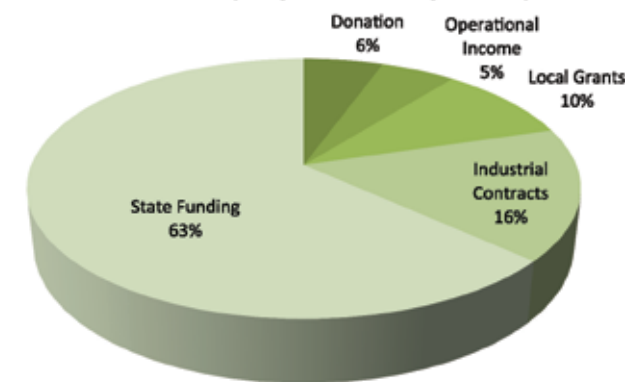
Vittone Park | Naplate, IL | 12:00 - 5:00 pm
\$25.00 ticket includes chance to win \$2,500!

2nd: \$1,000 | 3rd: \$750 | 4th: \$500 | 5th: \$250
Need not be present to win.

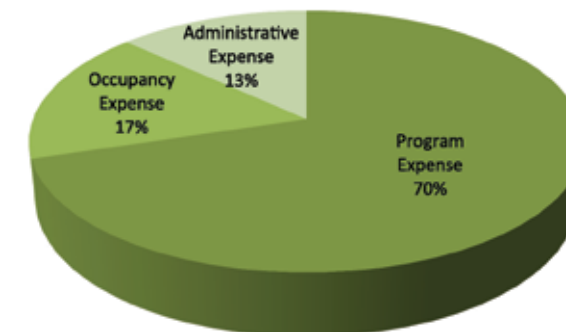
Proceeds to benefit Ottawa Friendship House.
Call 815-434-0737 for tickets.

Financial Snapshot

Revenue (July 2014-May 2015)



Expenses (July 2014-May 2015)



Ottawa Friendship House
is a United Way Partner
Agency

A portion of our yearly revenue is graciously donated by our local United Way.

Donations

General Donations

James and Mary Jane Aussem
AXA Foundation
match for Michael Hughes
Peg Breslin
Garth Brewer, DDS
James and Harriet Brown
Marcy Carrera
Centrue Bank
Sally Conklin
honoring Melinda Hettel
Michael Crowley

Sue Darif
honoring Keith Darif
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Exelon match for Michael Crowley
Kane Farabaugh
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Larry and Bonnie McGrogan
Larry and Lisa Morris

February 1, 2015 - May 31, 2015

Mucci and Kirkpatrick Sheet Metal
Mueller Funeral Homes
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Ottawa Funeral Home
Ottawa Knights of Columbus
Ottawa Noon Rotary
Pilkington Glass
Ed and Bette Pitstick
Ryan Poundstone
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Mark Thompson
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Thomas Zachary and Sons
Tom and Leslie Ziel

Memorials

In Honor of Doug Emanuelson
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In Honor of Gary Provance
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In Honor of Marlis Schumacher
Jack and Mary Kay Teasant