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A Quarterly Publication from Ottawa Friendship House

>> On December 26, 2013, Ottawa Friendship

House was deeply saddened by the passing

of Ed Whitney, the President of our Board of

>> Ed made a point to attend every special

event our agency hosted. We always knew

when he'd arrived by that great laugh he had as he was sharing a story or two. Sadly,

we had no way of knowing that our annual

>> Ed's love for this agency - and our love for

him - could be seen every time he set foot on our

campus. When he stopped in, he was always sur-

rounded by the consumers. He would strike up a

conversation to find out how they, or their fami-

>> The same warmth he offered our consumers

and staff could be seen in his leadership of our

ment to improve the quality of the lives of men

and women with developmental disabilities. He

was deeply moved by the generosity of those

within our community who shared the same

compassion and support for Ottawa Friendship

Board. He led with compassion and commit-

lies, were doing. Ed knew just about everyone.

and longtime supporter.

Christmas Luncheon just days prior would be

the last we would share a laugh with our friend

Directors.

Handshakes Thellos



Printing of this publication has been graciously donated by:

Your friends at Ottawa Friendship House appreciate your support!



Upcoming Events

March 20, 2014
Annual Fundraiser

JJ's Sports Pub & Grill 104 W. Main Street, Ottawa

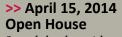
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

the agency.

Tickets: \$20 advance/door

Your ticket donation includes entry to the event plus unlimited beer, soda and appetizers. A variety of local gift baskets, donated by our friends and supporters, will be up for bid.

The evening includes raffles, a 50/50 drawing, entertainment and more. All proceeds remain local and help support



Spend the day with us. Enjoy tours, great food and fellowship while learning more about the agency. A special dedication is also planned.



Ottawa Friendship House

TICKET &

A new event for 2014, we are hosting a high-end fundraising event at the lovely home of one of our proud supporters.

>> August 23, 2014 Concert at Covel Creek

We celebrate five years of musical excellence in 2014. We also welcome The Chicago Brass Quintet back to our picturesque stage!

contactus

815.434.0737

friends@ottawafriendship.com www.ottawafriendship.com

Tribute

>> Our agency certainly benefitted from his

leadership and commitment. Ed leaves behind a

dedicated group of directors who will continue to

support that same vision. He will truly be missed.

Beth Mangold Executive Director

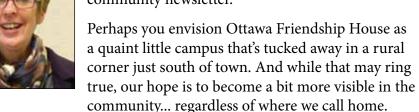
House.

Bob Agostinelli

Daniel Reynolds *President*Arnold Bandstra

troducing you to "Handshakes & Hellos," our new community newsletter.

Welcome Letter



It is with great pride that I write this brief note in-

We're an organization committed to helping our consumers gain independence. What better way to do so than by introducing them to our community and sharing news from within our agency that you might not otherwise hear?

For instance, did you know that several area businesses partner with us to offer employment services? Or that we offer a yearly concert on one of the area's most beautiful, natural amphitheaters?

So we hope that you'll take the time to say "hello" to this publication and to those individuals who utilize our services. In return, we offer a warm "handshake" as our thanks for your support, for being a friend of Ottawa Friendship House.

- Beth Mangold, Executive Director

RADIO

>> Second Cup on 1430-AM WCMY Thursday, March 13, 2014 @ 10:40 a.m.

Join us for an "on air" segment featuring Richard, this issue's featured consumer (see his story on the next page). He'll be joined by staff members Beth Mangold and Melissa Hulse who will also fill you in on the March fundraising event.

OTTAWA FRIENDSHIP HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Brian Hughes

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FROM SHELTERED TO COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT:

Richard is a man with autism and mild intellectual challenges. Richard, now in his sixties, grew up in a time prior to mandated special education services. His family had strong work ethics, and he realized from an early age that a person's worth is often measured by their employment.

As a young adult, Richard literally grew up with Ottawa Friendship House from its small beginning of ECHO school to the development of an adult day program with the first working contracts. He was one of the first to receive a paycheck for his work. The self-esteem that comes from that paycheck was certainly reflected in his life. Richard eventually was able to move into the residential program. His weekly paychecks allowed him to purchase things in his life that he needed or wanted.

Over the last 46 years, Richard has been working within sheltered employment at the agency. A review of his job performance showed that Richard's skills continued to grow. His quality of work, physical stamina, use of tools and punctuality indicated that he met competitive standards. He also had above average performance in the areas of independence, understanding instructions, safety habits, and moti-

Consumer Spotlight



vation to work. Plus his assembly skills were outstand-

Richard will be the first to tell you that he is happiest when he's working. He often has to be persuaded to use his vacation time. And although Richard loved working in the workshop, he was quite vocal about his desire to work in the community. His job performance indicated that he

would indeed be a good candidate for community employment.

Matching his skill sets to the right job was certainly a challenge. Thankfully Ottawa Friendship House embarked on a partnership with Zip Pak in the spring of 2010. Together, they brought an enclave of workers on site to assemble spools for the zipper portions of a zip lock bag. The enclaves were made up of a variety of workers who showed quality of work, stamina, use of tools and expressed a true desire to work. Richard appeared to the perfect candidate for an enclave position.

Richard has now worked at Zip Pak for the last couple years. He could not be happier working in the community. He loves that he gets an hourly wage and is the first to ask to work when overtime is needed.

ecember

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January

01

Christmas Mailing Robert and Kathleen Agostinelli Dennis and Carol Armstong* honoring David Armstrong Karen Armstrong Barbara Beer Robert and Jean Behler **Rex and Christine Benson** Mark and Emily Bickel Bill Walsh Toyota Rosanne Bonini Frank and Kristine Borkowsky John and Jacqueline Bottarini William and Nadine Bowers Peg Breslin **Garth Brewer** Jim and Erna Brusatte M.D. and Frances Cappellini Herbert and Beth Carlson James Carlson Robert and Lou Anne Carretto Robert and Nancy Carter* honoring Romi Halterman **Jack Cassidy** Cimco **Timothy and Karen Conness**

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Richard DeAngelo Winford and Johnna DeClue **Deer Park Community Mission** Cheryl DePaepe Robert and Vicki Donahue Rudy and Alice D'Souza Mervin and Phyllis Eastwold

James and Alice Ebner **Elk Digital Printing** Richard Escutia Clifford and Carol Espevik

Richard and Zip Pak are truly a match made in heaven. If Richard had his way, he would be working seven days a week. The more he works, the less dependent he is on others for support. Richard has certainly achieved his dream of working in the community and having a great paycheck!

Fern Matt Fleming Memorial Fund Financial Plus Credit Union Lawrence and Anna Mae Frattini* honoring Mandy Frederick and Barbara Frisch Kathleen Geiger **Dorothy Gemberling** Alan and Barbara George Patricia Gerding Gladfelter Funeral Home Keith and Jane Goetz Ronald and Judith Goodchild Robert and Margaret Green Jerry Halterman Kay Halterman Handy Foods Thomas and Sandra Heimsoth Herman's Package Store Joe Hettel **Brian Hughes** Michael and Mary Hughes **IIP Insurance** Illinois Valley Business Equipment Larry and Gayla Johnson Donald and Judith Kiesig Stephen and Laurie Killelea Nick and Linda Kinsella Walter and Amy Kistenfeger Laborers International Union Edward and A Lambert Claire Land*

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Dickson and Carolyn Shipman

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honoring Bobby Schwerdtfeger

Pipefitters Association, Local 597

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Margaret Reagan

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Darrell Seigler

Louis Olivero

Donna O'Connor and Kathleen Stefenel

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Donations are always welcome. We will gladly accept a check by mail or in person at 1718 N. 2525 Road. In fact, give a call first and we'll be happy to show you around: 815.434.0737. Or contribute online at www.ottawafriendship.com.