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A Quarterly Publication from Ottawa Friendship House

Winter 2015

# Handshakes & Hellos



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## Upcoming Events

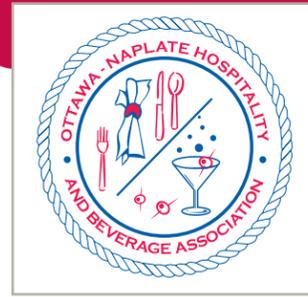
**>> Tuesday, March 24th  
Beginning at 10:40 a.m.**

Join us for an "on air" segment with Karen Rhodes of 1430-AM WCMY's Second Cup. Agency staff member Melissa Hulse and event volunteer Molly Hughes will talk about auction items up for bid at the March 26th fundraiser. Plus, they'll explain the decision behind a brand new name and location in 2015!



*contact us*

**815.434.0737**  
friends@ottawafriendship.com  
www.ottawafriendship.com



**Thursday, March 26, 2015  
Friends, Food & Fun... raising!**  
sponsored by the Ottawa-Naplate  
Hospitality and Beverage Association

**Knights of Columbus Hall | 401 W. Main Street, Ottawa  
5:00 - 8:00 pm | \$20.00 donation; tickets at the door**

Event includes unlimited beer, wine, soda and appetizers catered by Casa Mia and Monte's Riverside Inn. A variety of local gift baskets, donated by our friends and supporters, will be up for bid. Enjoy raffles, a 50/50 drawing, live auctions and the smooth, rocking jazz sounds of Dave Eno.

All proceeds remain local and help support the agency.



>> Consumers enjoyed a hayride, games and fun with the students from Marquette through the Bridge to Friendship Program.

>> Janet Martin was hired as our new workshop director. Janet has an MA in finance and an employment background in special education.

>> The Utica Fireside White Sox Club presented us with a check for \$800. Steve, a consumer and avid Chicago White Sox fan, was named an honorary member of the club.

>> Sullivan and Glenwood Houses were surveyed by Illinois Department of Public Health and were awarded long-term care licensing.

>> We received a \$5,000 check from the Bradley Fedorow Trust to purchase furniture and appliances for the two new 16-bed homes purchased in September.

>> Randy and Diane Stiles chose to celebrate the holidays by providing pizzas for everyone at the agency. Stacks of pizzas provided lunch for over 100 people.

>> Starved Rock Harley Women sponsored a Christmas Dance on December 12, 2014.

>> Our annual agency Christmas Luncheon was held December 19, 2014 in our workshop.

>> Members of the workshop program worked with CIMCO on a recycling project.

>> We hosted a Dental Clinic which offered treatment to 32 patients with intellectual challenges.

## Welcome Letter



Thank you so much for your generous gifts this past holiday season and throughout the year!

Your help has been vital in achieving our mission of improving the quality of life for men and women with intellectual challenges!

Donations have provided us with extra revenue to improve accessibility throughout our campus. In addition, we've been able to purchase several items from our "wish list" including:

- equipment for our workshop
- materials and curriculum for our developmental training program
- furniture and appliances for our residential programs
- vehicles for transportation
- scholarships for our dental program

With your gifts of time, talent and resources, we can continue to grow into the future to meet the needs of our consumers.

You have made a difference!

*- Beth Mangold, Executive Director*

## Highlights

### OTTAWA FRIENDSHIP HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## introducing a new look for 2015



### GAINING EMPLOYMENT SKILLS TRANSLATES TO NEW RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS

Gary acquired spinal meningitis at the age of 2 1/2. Soon after, he was also diagnosed with hearing loss. Gary attended the Illinois School for the Deaf and graduated in 1985. The summer of 1986, he attended summer camp for the hearing impaired at Northern Illinois University.

Assessments concluded that Gary was proficient at sign language and his ability to read lips. Additional assessment showed that Gary struggled with pre-vocational testing and would benefit from support as needed.

In early adulthood, Gary was employed within the community. Following an accident in which he suffered physical injury, Gary was reluctant to return to work and became unemployed. His home situation also changed following the death of his father.

Gary's family doctor referred him to Ottawa Friendship House in hopes that he'd benefit from its residential and vocational services. Years later, his success story proves that the support of our agency was just what Gary needed.

Gary began working in the workshop assembling calendars. He developed great work skills and attitudes and seemed to thrive within the agency's >>

### Consumer Spotlight



work environment. His supervisors would provide the supports and direction as he requested them. Gary's production rate continued to improve, and soon his rate assembly was nearing percentage of normal production.

Six month performance reviews showed that Gary had great relationships with his supervisors and coworkers. He was able to take re-direction from his supervisors. He also displayed both physical stamina and a true motivation to work. His concentration and quality of work proved to be above average.

Agency staff members agreed that Gary would be an excellent candidate to transition from the workshop into community employment. After completing orientation and training at Zip Pak, Gary acclimated quickly to his new position and is making an hourly minimum wage.

Gary loves his job and his home at Friendship House. At this time in his life, he is happy living here with his three roommates. Yet with his current earning potential, an apartment of his own is not out of

the question.

His new employment opportunity has afforded him some of the extra luxuries in his life... like travel. Gary has saved enough money for trips with Able Trek Tours, a travel program for individuals with disabilities. This year, his travel included the Rose Bowl! The power of a paycheck can be life changing!

#### fresh, modern feel

- time for an update
- clean, eye-catching design
- matches agency branding
- new blog format

#### device/user friendly

- view on pc, phone, or tablet
- easy to navigate
- search box function
- integrate with Facebook

#### additional content

- staff directory
- dedicated event pages
- make a donation online
- view our latest news first

Ottawa Friendship House  
Changing Disabilities Into Abilities



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friends@ottawafriendship.com

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# Donations

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Karen Armstrong  
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*honoring Dickson and Carolyn Shipman*  
Valerian and Arratta Znaniecki

## General Donations

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— October 1, 2014 - January 31, 2015 —

...continued

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of University Women  
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Utica Fireside White Sox Club  
Women of Evangelical Lutheran Church

### Memorials

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*In Honor of Gene Lewis*  
Eleanor Lewis

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#### *In Honor of William Knox Sr.*

Kathy Geiger  
Nick and Linda Kinsella  
Richard and Beth Mangold

**HOW TO HELP:** Want to be included in an upcoming list of contributors? Donations are always welcome. We will gladly accept a check by mail or in person. Or call ahead, and we'll be happy to show you around!

### **Ottawa Friendship House**

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or make your donation online through PayPal at

**[www.ottawafriendship.com](http://www.ottawafriendship.com)**

Changing disabilities into Abilities