

Crystal Run Village, Inc.

“Services for the Integration and Empowerment of People with Disabilities”



Catherine Nicholson merges imagination, creativity and skill in designing floral centerpieces.



Color, vibrance, and joy emanate from Catherine Nicholson's *Flowers in Vase*.

Currents

Divine Contentment

Meaningful work and contribution are very important to Catherine Nicholson. So is earning her way through life. Without the sense of personal identity and pride she derives from responsibility, she can become frustrated and angry. Her true nature is one of calm, discipline and predictability. Being validated as an adult (she's 47) and knowing that she has a purpose on the societal continuum is the measure of her self-esteem. Catherine is employed by Village Care, the Crystal Run Village integrated competitive work program, where she does janitorial work. She also attends an Independent Living Center day program on a part-time basis. The structure of these programs gives her a sense of productivity and value. When she feels this sense of completeness it's easier for her to relate to others.

Catherine's passion is arranging flowers. When engaged in this activity she is more overt and animated. Her commitment to this craft is that of an artist, although she makes it known that she would gain even greater satisfaction if given the opportunity to earn a living using this skill. Her creativity is a means of self-expression where she has the freedom to make choices and the opportunity to experiment with different media, techniques, and materials. A great accomplishment was designing the innovative floral centerpieces used on the tables for the most recent Crystal Run Village Foundation, Inc. dinner dance.

To relax and enrich her free time, she began attending evening art classes this past winter. Creating art offers the tangible productivity that is so important to her, even in her leisure time. According to her instructors, her first drawings were a bit tentative; she was afraid of making mistakes. The instructors concluded that Catherine needed a method to ensure she felt on track, and devised a system where she could work from an overhead transparency that enabled her to check her progress. With renewed confidence she created the large piece entitled *Flowers in Vase* (bottom left) for which she received a second place prize at an art show in Oneonta.

Art is a language that everyone can use to share culture, to share experience, and to share feelings. Painting and flower arranging have provided Catherine with a functional form of expression. She is no longer self-conscious, she possesses a gracious spirit and her contentment articulates a quiet dignity.

Catherine Nicholson lives in the Town of Hamptonburgh. She has been a resident of Crystal Run Village, Inc. for 8 years. The art studio at Crystal Run Village, Inc. supports and assists individual artists with intellectual disabilities to learn technique and professionally exhibit their work. Artists work both collaboratively and individually in a large, light-filled studio located on the grounds of the agency's main offices in what was the former residential campus dining room. ❖

From the Desk of Jim Lawler

“Keeping It In Perspective”



**Jim Lawler,
Executive Director**

We have been focusing of late on the organizational development of the agency by improving the quality of our business practices. Indeed we provide community based human services, however, we must think globally in our administrative functions. I know that our funding streams do. The “bottom line” is always to provide the best service delivery system possible for the people in our programs; the only way I know to make this possible is to rely on the skills, talents and compassion of our direct support staff and the solid support provided by our administrative staff.

As our readers know, there is a pay disparity between non-profits and for-profit companies. In considering the type of work and multiple roles direct support staff play, it could be said that they are under compensated. Meeting pay expectations isn’t the only financial challenge facing the agency when it comes to staff; we also struggle to find money for employee programs and benefits that can enhance the appeal of our workplace.

For a not-for-profit such as Crystal Run Village, Inc. to be successful in attracting and keeping the very best staff, we have to be twice as smart and work twice as hard as the for-profit companies. There is much talk about the difference in motivating factors between the for-profit arena and the not-for-profit; simply put, it is financial gain vs. non-monetary satisfaction for the privilege of being a benefit to society. While the personal and spiritual rewards of working with people with developmental disabilities goes beyond cash compensation, our staff have the same expenses, needs and dreams as everyone else. For the kind of work they do, wouldn’t it be wonderful to pay them more, simply because they care for others?

The good news is that recently we successfully upgraded our benefits, overhauled our performance-appraisal system, increased employee training and development opportunities, enhanced our tuition reimbursement program, and put more emphasis on training of managers. It’s important to give staff the tools they need to make the professional commitment to the human services field so they will stay with us.

And to keep it all in perspective, the 5% raise (sounds great) that our direct support professionals just received translates to about \$15.00 a week after taxes. We still have much work to do.❖

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Work-Based Learning Success



Joe Zupp receives some pointers on his CPR technique from volunteer instructor Linda Denman.



Joe Zupp frames-out a bench that he is building.

As a child, Joe Zupp experienced loss, disappointment and neglect. The chronic trauma resulted in his being anxious, fearful and insecure. His survival tools included being uncooperative, impatient, untrusting and aggressive toward others. His future was fraught with many personal, social, emotional and educational challenges.

Joe was introduced to what would become his life vocation at the Hillcrest Education Center’s High Point School in Massachusetts. High Point provides residential treatment and special education for boys. Its programs are for students with above average prospects for full integration. Joe was the kind of kid who was enthusiastic about the classes he liked but was known to sleep at his desk during subjects in which he had no interest. The school is known for its challenging career related programs of study. School personnel developed and followed an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that would allow for a successful transition for Joe from school to work. The acres of wooded grounds, rolling lawns and rambling buildings of High Point provided him with hands-on learning experiences in lands-keeping and maintenance. Placement in a working greenhouse was also an integral aspect of his vocational training program.

Joe progressed in understanding how to control his conduct. Once back in New York State he experienced multiple placements in residential programs in Orange County. Along the way Joe was nurtured by people who saw his true nature, often described as cooperative and happy-go-lucky. Despite the disruption of moving from place to place, he overcame his past life circumstances, and has achieved the goal of living in a less restrictive setting. In 2003 he moved to the Crystal Run Village, Inc. Walden house, the agency’s first residential program in the community. The Walden house is home to 12 individuals with a primary psychiatric diagnosis and with a dual diagnosis of developmental disability.

Today at the age of 25 Joe possesses healthy social skills and has great relationships with peers and staff. He is considerate and helpful. He feels safe, confident and involved. Joe works as a custodian 4 days a week for Village Care, the agency’s integrated competitive work program. His great passion is wood working. Every chance he gets he is in the maintenance shop, building something; most recently a bench. On Sundays he peruses the newspaper flyers from the home improvement and garden stores for something new for his tool box. His favorite tool is his drywall power screw gun. Joe hopes one day to work at Lowe’s; aside from the job, he sure could use the employee discount on future purchases. ♦



Joe Zupp with Behavior Technician Bernadette Henighan.

In the Know In the Know

Name Change Defines Future Now

In June 2006, the members of the American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR) voted to change the name of the organization, and to adopt “American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities” as its new name.

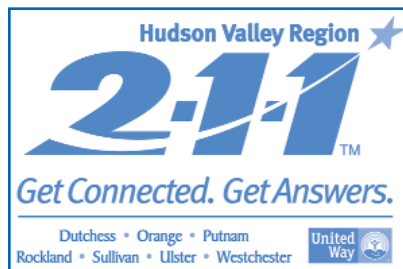
The results of the membership vote on the issue of changing the name of the AAMR were conclusive. The new name American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities received 60% of the vote, while the runner up, American Association on Developmental Disabilities, received 40% of the ballots.

The association’s membership is comprised of over 9,000 professionals in 55 countries who work with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Its mission is to promote progressive policies, sound research, effective practices, and universal human rights for the people served by its membership. According to association spokesperson, Valerie Bradley, the issue of the name has been time well spent, and positively affected the group’s ability to attract a new generation of members. “This organization has so much to contribute and this change will make it easier for people to see beyond what we *call* ourselves to *who* we are,” she said.

An unveiling for the association’s new identity is expected in early 2007. The change will not alter the mission of the organization but rather will bring the name more in line with general usage in the field and reenergize the day to day work of its membership. ❖

Direction for Those in Need

2-1-1 is the abbreviated dialing code for free access to health and human services information and referral. The service is now available in the entire Hudson Valley. 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember and universally recognizable number that makes a critical connection between individuals and families seeking services or volunteer opportunities and the appropriate community-based organizations and government agencies.



Every hour of every day, hundreds of people in the Hudson Valley and thousands of people in the United States need essential human care services from substance abuse assistance to adequate care for a child or an aging parent. People often don’t know where to turn. In many cases, people are simply unaware of the options available to them. They end up going without necessary and readily available services because they do not know where to begin. 2-1-1 makes it possible for people to more successfully navigate the complex maze of human service agencies and programs. By making services easier to access, 2-1-1 helps people to get assistance when a problem first develops - rather than allowing a problem to grow.

Nearly 50% of the people in the United States now have access to 2-1-1. The 2-1-1 Hudson Valley Region is the second and largest region in New York State to begin operation. The Finger Lakes Region began responding to calls late last year and the Western NY Region will begin operation some time in 2006. The Capital Region and New York City may also open in 2006.

(continued on page 6)

Defining Intellectual Disability

Founded in 1876, AAMR is an international multidisciplinary association of professionals. The Association has had responsibility for defining mental retardation since 1921. An abridged overview of its current definition follows:

- Mental retardation is a disability characterized by significant limitations both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills. The AAMR suggests that the disability originates before age 18.
- Mental retardation is not something you have, like blue eyes, or a bad heart. Nor is it something you are, like short, or thin.
- It is not a medical disorder, nor a mental disorder.
- Mental retardation is a particular state of functioning that begins in childhood and is characterized by limitation in both intelligence and adaptive skills.
- Mental retardation reflects the “fit” between the capabilities of individuals and the structure and expectations of their environment.

Make it Matter, Make it Real

It Will Make a Difference!

For each young person and their family, transition planning is the opportunity of a lifetime. The following list of “Dos & Don’ts” for School-to-Work Transition Planning was created to help families and advocates prepare young adults for this important life change.

DO . . .

1. Explain the goals of transition planning - what does it mean to the student?
2. Describe what the student can/should expect.
3. Ask the student questions to make sure they understand.
4. Ask the student where they need help and how you can help.
Encourage the individual to identify their needs.
5. Research what supports and services are available, including other agencies.
6. Encourage the student to talk about goals and dreams; discuss ways for providing support through the Transitional Plan.
7. Keep open lines of communication between all members of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Team, especially the student.
8. Be an advocate.
9. Acknowledge strengths and successes.
10. Make certain the student knows who the players are and what their role is; EXPLAIN!
11. Encourage self-advocacy!

DON'T . . .

1. Don't underestimate the relationship between transition planning and the student's future success.
2. Don't forget that the student is a young adult; treat the individual with respect. .
3. Don't forget how important it is for the student to have a positive outlook about the future.
4. Don't rush...give the student time to formulate thoughts, questions and ideas.
5. Don't expect to have all the answers — LISTEN.
6. Don't say you're going to do something and then not do it.
7. Don't wait until a student is 16 years old before you discuss transition; plant the seed NOW!
8. Don't assume a student understands what's happening. Understanding means participation.
9. Don't assume anything!

This list of “Dos & Don’ts” was created by the Youth Leadership Forum Alumni, a program sponsored by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, and was featured in the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council's August 2006 E-Bulletin.

For more information on navigating the road to work for youth transitioning to adulthood go to these relevant websites: National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth www.ncwd-youth.info or National Center on Secondary Education and Transition. www.ncset.org ♦



Alan Boyd graduated from school in 2002. He is employed by Village Care in a paid competitive work environment. Alan and his family are planning his transition from living at home to a group residence for adults in the community.

Crystal Run Village DAY PROGRAM CENSUS

Number of people attending
the Open Vistas Day Habilitation
Program: 33

Number of people participating in
Day Programs Without Walls: 3

Number of people working
through the agency's Supported
Employment Programs: 51

Number of people employed by the
Village Care Mobile Work Crew: 7

In the Know In the Know

continued from page 4, Direction for Those In Need

Financial and in-kind support to sustain the Hudson Valley regional call service is coming from 3 major sources: the participating United Ways; county, state and federal governments; foundations; businesses; not-for-profits and civic organizations. When fully operational, the annual budget for the regional 2-1-1 system will be approximately \$1.1 million. The matter of funding has taken form as the “Calling for 2-1-1 Act” and has been introduced in Congress by U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (NY) and Elizabeth Dole (NC) and is being supported by a growing number of members of Congress. A state bill that would provide additional longer-term support is also pending

The United Way of America has been working in partnership with the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) since the late 1990s to advance the nationwide rollout of 2-1-1. ❖

Conversions and Renovations

In an effort to make the best use of the agency’s existing resources, two buildings on the Middletown Campus are being reclassified with the purpose of providing enhanced services. The project calls for the renovation of the former Steppingstones building (previously known as Holland Hall and Levine Dorm) into a 4-bed Respite, replacing the current 2-bed Respite. Phase Two of the plan calls for the renovation of the current Respite ranch house into a 2-bed IRA/ apartment. Two women ready for greater independence, who have chosen to be housemates, are thrilled with the prospect of beginning this next step in their lives.



Renovation of the Steppingstones residence on the grounds of the agency’s headquarters is underway for the relocation of the agency’s Respite house.

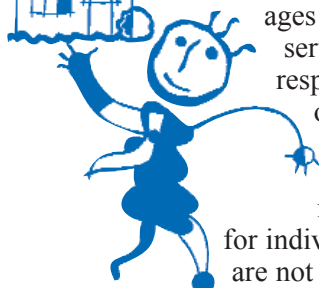
Respite is a program providing supervision, housing, activities and basic services on a temporary basis for people over the age of 13 with an intellectual disability.

The service offers parents, caregivers and family care-providers relief from their responsibilities of caring for an individual in the case of illness, need for a vacation, family emergencies, or for just a day or weekend away. During a recent month, the agency’s Respite house provided relief to 20 people for a total of 1,845.5 hours of service. The conversion of the Stepping Stones building will offer 2 additional bedrooms and 2 accessible bathrooms for this much-needed service.

Funds for these conversion and renovation projects are provided by the NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and the Orange County Department of Mental Health. Plans for an “open house” are underway for a day yet to be announced. ❖



Respite Weekends for Children



The Children’s Respite Weekends program offers a caring and stimulating environment for children ages 5-13. The weekends provide supervision, housing, non-medical support, activities and basic services. Like the Respite house, the program gives parents and care-givers relief from their responsibilities for the purposes of a vacation, for handling a family emergency or just for time off from their daily care responsibilities. Those designated weekends are currently the only time children under age 13 can be accommodated. The Respite is not intended as a crisis facility. A stay at the Respite is a Waiver Service. There is no out of pocket cost for individuals enrolled in the Home and Community Based Services Medicaid Waiver Program, for individuals who have a Service Coordinator, or for individuals who have a Medicaid number but are not necessarily receiving waiver services. *(continued on page 14)*

Transition from School to Work Strategy

Transition is the passage from one stage of development to another. To teens that have developmental disabilities, this transition stage is critical to the rest of their lives. In this context, transition refers to the passage of the learning disabled youth from high school into the adult world of work and/or post-secondary education. Such transition requires preparation and could mean the difference between being dependent and independent.

Throughout elementary and middle school, students and families focus on remedial areas such as reading, writing and math. However, for teenage students steps must be taken so that they get the connection between what they are learning in school and the responsibilities they may encounter after graduation. Exposure and setting high expectations early in life is important for a child with a developmental disability in order to develop the skills to succeed in the future.

In New York State, students receiving special education services have transition planning incorporated into the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) beginning no later than age 15 and ending when the student either receives a diploma or at the end of the school year in which the student turns 21.

The State defines transition services as a coordinated set of activities which are designed to prepare the student for outcomes that are envisioned for the student in adult life. Outcomes may include postsecondary education,

employment, vocational training, adult education, adult services, independent living, and community participation. Transition services are intended to be person-centered, taking into account student interest as well as needs and performance.

It is important to identify the student's interests, strengths, skills, and needs related to career development for the framework of this roadmap of activities. The discovery process means that the selection of secondary school classes can be tied to career interest, creating a solid foundation for a smooth transition to adult employment. Yet another challenge is learning and practicing self-advocacy. Vocational assessments are an integral part of the special education process, taking place through annual reviews to define where the student is on the transition plan continuum.

A major factor in the development of objectives for achieving success is family involvement and inclusion of other service providers. A student's relationship outside of the school environment can offer the networking necessary for introductory experiences in real settings through workplace tours and recreation. Such activities will provide students and families with insight into job requirements and responsibilities, employer expectations and workplace etiquette. Volunteer work, service, and activities at a student's school can also provide rich, work-based learning opportunities. ❖

Transition Planning Timeline

The following is an abridged version of the series of events that may need to be considered during a student's transition process. All items will not be applicable to all students. According to the State Education Department, this list serves as an optional planning tool and processes may vary by school.

<i>Suggested Age Range</i>	<i>Suggested Age Range</i>
Discuss curriculum areas at IEP meetings _____ 12-15	Obtain Personal ID Card; consider guardianship; Investigate SSDI/SSI Medicaid programs _____ 16-18
Develop and implement strategies to increase responsibilities and independence at home.	Explore recreational activities, volunteer opportunities, summer employment.
Explore social and recreation options.	Develop travel/mobility strategies.
Complete vocational assessment/periodic evaluations.	Investigate post-school college, opportunities, training.
Assure that copies of work-related documents are available _____ 14-16	Investigate possible adult residential opportunities.
Social Security Card; Birth Certificate; Working Papers (as appropriate)	Apply to post-school colleges/training _____ 17-21
Incorporate transition services into IEP _____ 15	Register to vote. Register for selective service, preview health insurance coverage.
	Complete transition to employment, education, training, community living _____ 18-21

Information taken in part from a report supported by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs and the New York State Education Department Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities. For more information go to <http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/transition/home.html>

ADVOCACY...INDEPENDENCE

We've Got the Power

By Mary-Lee Westbrook, Service Coordinator

What better place to hold a conference entitled, "We Had a Dream: Now We have the Power", than Atlanta, Georgia? And, so it was, a peach of a location for the 8th National Self Advocacy Conference. Attending were self-advocates Sigrid Sardeson, Florence Eve, and, I tagged along as advisor.

We all were excited and a little nervous about the trip and getting there safely. When we disembarked from the plane we were amazed at the size of the Atlanta airport. Huge! We took a train to get to the train that took us to the mall in the downtown area of the city where all the hotels are located. Next we faced 90 degree heat and 100 percent humidity and a four block walk carrying our luggage to the hotel. It was just our luck that members of the conference committee came strolling our way and escorted us to a short cut to the hotel. We learned fast that we could get from place to place without going outside by using the causeways. The one to the food court was a block and a half long!

The dramatic opening ceremony began with an all male choir singing "We Shall Overcome". The entire audience soon joined in with a powerful voice of solidarity. Next came the parade of flags representing the 30 states with delegates attending the conference. It was an overwhelming sight and an emotion-filled experience. Some representatives were powered by wheelchairs, some walked, some shuffled, some barely held the weight of the flag pole. Others proudly swung their poles to the rhythm of the music making the colorful flags flap, snap and billow. Cheers and clapping erupted from the delegates as the states were introduced.

Of the many sightseeing opportunities we had, we especially enjoyed a trip to the Coca-Cola Museum. The tasting room where Flo got a Coke in a glass large enough to satisfy her, was most memorable. Sigrid found her dream vehicle, a bright red and chrome motorcycle with the Coke logo designed all over it. We all fell in love with the Coke polar bear that is set up as a photo opportunity. Imagine our surprise when the bear started talking as we posed for a picture.

The conference was super. It was chock full of interesting and entertaining workshops, including "They Told Me I'd Never Be Able to Live on My Own . . . But, Now I Do". Sigrid is most vocal on the subject, having lived in an apartment in the community for 9 years. She is the perfect mentor for Flo who is transitioning into an apartment from a group home in the very near future.

There was a self-advocacy fair, an art exhibition and even a dance. We did not miss the chance to party down. Our hearts were truly with those who chose to participate in the 2-mile Civil Rights March and Rally at 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon, but we felt we were wise in opting for activities that featured air conditioning.

We met many people and were truly inspired by the many ideas that were introduced. Most important is the message that disability or not, each of us is a person of value. Our experience has empowered us to spread the word. ❖



(From left to right): Mary-Lee Westbrook, Sigrid Sardeson and Florence Eve.

...EMPOWERMENT

Summit Declares Independence for All

Representatives from the three self-advocacy groups comprised of individuals receiving services from Crystal Run Village, Inc. and their advisors attended the "My Life, My Choice" summit hosted by Westchester ARC at the White Plains Crowne Plaza Hotel this spring. A full day of self-advocacy workshops focusing on empowering people with developmental disabilities was topped off with a panel discussion on changing expectations for social inclusion lead by NBC correspondent and four-time Emmy award winner, John Hockenberry. Crystal Run Village, Inc., was a primary sponsor of the summit.

Hockenberry was joined by Chester Finn, chairperson of Self-Advocates Being Empowered; Thomas A. Maul, Commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, and Sue Swenson, newly appointed executive director of the Arc of the U.S. Individuals with Developmental Disabilities participated by sharing stories about taking charge of their own lives. Featured speakers included Joey Lombardozi, who works at a real estate law firm; Lois and Patsy Ginese, who have been married for 20 years; and Bob Smith, who is an entrepreneur.

Hockenberry, a paraplegic, downplayed his role-model status and instead offered praise to service providers. As a disability rights activist he has been called provocative and outspoken. As a journalist, associates have referred to him as "the smartest guy on MSNBC". His memoir, *Moving Violations: War Zones, Wheelchairs and Declarations of Independence*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. ❖



Self-advocate Linda Nadel, a resident of Jacobs Road house, with journalist and author John Hockenberry

College Inclusion Enriching

By David Schneyer, Clinical Services Coordinator



On Saturday May 27, 2006, Sullivan County Community College (SCCC) held its 42nd Annual Commencement. Seven people receiving services from Crystal Run Village, Inc., received certificates of completion for attending the College for Educational Enrichment (CEE) Program.

Receiving a satisfactory grade for the ten classes in the CEE program were: Elizabeth Marchant, Igor Maseyev, Sol Sulmy, Helen Gellert, Mickail Bronzstein, Annette Elbling, Lisa Vitable, and Steven Talent. They marched proudly in cap and gown along with the 2006 SCCC graduates receiving associates degrees, and were awarded their certificates by the College President, M. Howard Golladay. As the CEE class reached the stage and their names were announced, graduates of the SCCC Class of 2006 gave them a resounding, standing ovation in recognition of their accomplishments.

Crystal Run Village, Inc. enrollment in the CEE program averages 40-45 students a semester. Each semester, students can choose from a variety of courses and areas of study including academics, creative arts and leisure activities, personal development/independent life skills, athletics, vocational skills and liberal arts. A second ceremony held in early June at the SCCC Field House, recognized all CEE program participants who attended the Fall '05 or Spring '06 semesters. Also attending were students from the Center for Discovery, New Hope Community and Sullivan ARC. A buffet dinner, class demonstrations, a show, music and dancing made for a festive close to the school year.

The SCCC College for Education Enrichment has been in operation for more than 20 years in partnership with human services agencies that participate in curriculum development and contribute financially to support program costs. The SCCC program has served as the model for similar programs at other New York community colleges. ❖

Heroes' Stories Told on Film

The Everyday Heroes Initiative recognizes the contributions of direct support professionals by supporting them as leaders and teachers of other direct support staff. The project deepens their commitment and contributions to inclusion through person-centered practices. In 2001, the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities convened its first Everyday Heroes Leadership Institute for the purpose of learning from direct support staffers about their unique experiences in the community with the people they serve.

The first Heroes were chosen by voluntary agencies such as Crystal Run Village, Inc. and regional Developmental Disabilities Services Offices based on their leadership when promoting community lives for people. At future regional conferences the Heroes, acting in the role of teachers, told their stories of building inclusion to agency directors and other direct support professionals. The stories demonstrated best practices by showing how people with disabilities can become strongly connected to community members and valued for their participation and contributions.

The compilation of these stories was then taken a step further to the creation of *Everyday Heroes*, the movie including an original theme song entitled, "I and i feel like you do" (see accompanying story on next page). The song, written and performed by Rohan Robinson, reflects his Jamaican roots as well as his love for his work in the United States as a Direct Support Professional. He has been employed by Westchester ARC for 15 years. Rohan's song *I and i feel like you do* honors the depth of feeling shared by people with developmental disabilities and their Heroes. Watch for the movie's release this fall. ❖



A Crystal Run Village, Inc. story included in the movie featured Beverly Gillick's (left) day program without walls and Direct Support Professional Ann Fletcher.

News from Crystal Run Village, Inc.

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Currents

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Musician, songwriter and Direct Support Professional Rohan Robinson.

... and Through Song I and i feel like you do

By Rohan Robinson

*How could you look in my eyes and abuse me
How could you look in my eyes and refuse me
This is my life not a movie
This is not news for the TV,
Cho.*

*I and i feel pain like you do
I and i feel anger like you do
I and i feel sadness like you do
And i and i feel joy too
I and i need loving like you do
I and i need greetings like you do
I and i need the same things like you do
So treat i like i treat you*

*Such a thin line between love and hate
So, patience and compassion i celebrate
What i can't control i appreciate
And everything else will fall in place*

*The things people do to me make little sense
Like being discriminated against, but, what they don't know,
I'll never be bent
I persevere through my resilience,
Cho.*



*I don't know why i am the way i am
I didn't ask to be the way i am
All i know i am the way i am
And i am a lot more than what they say i am
All I ever wanted was the right
To do what ever i like
Have the opportunities to make the choice
To do the things that empower my life,
Cho.*

*So now you know me
I hope a little love you'll show me
This is my story
And to the most high be the glory
How could you look in my eyes and abuse me
How could you look in my eyes and refuse me*

This is my life not a movie this is not news for the TV❖

Service and Achievement



From left to right: Cipollone House Assistant Residence Manager Dawn Watters, Honoree John Wisniewski and Manager Donna Myers

John Wisniewski

In 1983 John Wisniewski came to live at the B-1 unit on the agency's Fallsburg Campus. He moved to the Nashopa house in 1995 and since mid-2004 he has been living in Pine Bush at the Cipollone house. John is regarded by those who know him as exceedingly charming and pleasant. He is committed and energetic in everything that he does.

The first thing that John will tell you is that he is a Polish man, and proud of it. He loves polka music, especially when it is played in concert. He speaks on the phone frequently with his friend, Grammy Award winner and polka orchestra leader - Jimmy Sturr.

John has capably worked many jobs over the years; currently he works for the Middletown WalMart in the maintenance department. His managers and co-workers are extremely fond of him and boast continually about his diligence on the job. John enjoys work, but like the rest of us he looks forward to vacation. He has especially liked going to Nashville, Florida, Atlantic City and the agency's vacation homes.

John is kind and sensitive to all. His joyful smile expresses a contentment with life and his thankfulness for the many people who care about him. He makes a conscious effort to stay connected with family and all the friends gathered throughout his life. Together at home with his five housemates, they enjoy eating decadent desserts, playing and watching sports and competing at video games. John is also well known in his community; making the rounds to his favorite places regularly, including the post office, video store, restaurants and the Mobil convenience store.

John's family wants everyone to know how extremely proud they are of his accomplishments and of the life that he has made for himself. ❖



Shane Holman (right) accepts his service award from Jim Lawler, Executive Director.

Shane Holman

Shane Holman came to Crystal Run Village, Inc. in April of 2004. He was homeless and in the custody of the State of New York. Initially he was receiving temporary housing in the agency's Respite House because he had no one interested in what became of him and nowhere to go. Clinical staff, Service Coordinators - staff on all levels - upon meeting Shane, wanted to find permanent placement for him within one of the agency's group homes. They wanted to give him the feeling of stability that being at home with Crystal Run Village would bring. A sincere connection was instantly made with this bright and quick-witted young man that had experienced so much despair in his short life.

Shane is now happy and content. He has found a place to call home at Tennyson house. He captured the affection of his teachers at Clarkstown South High School, from which he graduated last spring with great grades. He participated in all high school activities including his senior prom. During the summers he enjoys being a summer camp Counselor in Training.

Currently Shane is a member of the Special Olympics soccer, hockey and basketball teams. He recently participated in a work training program which provided him with the skills necessary for entering the workforce; he now works at DSW Shoe Store. Though he continues to wrestle with the underlying pain of his past Shane is quick to say that he is happy about doing well, that he has good friends and looks forward to having more. ❖

Honorees

**Make Reservations Now
for Reunion 2006
Sunday, Sept. 10th - 11:30 a.m.
Nevele Hotel in Ellenville, NY
Call Sher Singh for details:
845-695-2552**



Robert Gatto (center) with his parents, Carol and Greg.

Robert Gatto

Robert Gatto is associated with Crystal Run Village, through the agency's service coordination department. Robert lives at home with the support of a large contingent of his family.

Robert was honored for his successful graduation from high school, for the good work he does as a hotel maintenance staff person at the Days Inn, for the friendship he shares with others and for the important role he plays as a family member. This recognition is also in praise of the kindness he offers to seniors as a volunteer at local nursing homes and for Meals-on-Wheels.

Indeed, Robert considers caring for others his good fortune. He is a person who sincerely believes that through effort and the refusal to lose energy through pessimism, he can achieve all. Simply put, Robert is the eternal optimist.

At 22 years old Robert is also a very traditional young man. He loves his family, walking the dog and music of the Frank Sinatra genre. He does not consider himself to be part of the MTV generation; preferring to watch as little television as possible and he has no interest in video games. He participates as a team member in area bowling leagues and he is said to be highly competent at finishing off those challenging spares.

As an expert ATV driver he maneuvers his trusty quad through field and trail in search of the ultimate outdoor experience. Truly, for Robert, the thrill and power of being on his vehicle is a free-roaming adventure - expressing his interest in knowing what might be around the next corner. ❖

Kathy Lewis

Since arriving 31 years ago at the Crystal Run Village, Middletown Campus, Kathy Lewis has lived in several of its residential programs. She moved to the Fallsburg Campus in 1981, then to the Riverhouse and on to Haring Road. Finally, with some medical issues controlled, Kathy settled at the W.R. Pitt house in Monticello in 2001, where she resides today. With all these many moves Kathy has a well-developed ability to build long-standing friendships. These friendships, with residents and staff alike, have contributed greatly to her ability to reach through to the better side of the many hardships and obstacles she has experienced in life.

Kathy is a determined individual who has a zest for life and an abundance of youthful attitude that many of us aspire to. She is all about the celebrity of wearing the right fashion labels which express just how good she feels and who she is on the inside. If she were a designer she might suggest a piece of fine jewelry for an added touch of confidence to any ensemble.

Kathy is nurturing, kind, cooperative and generous. She is a diehard romantic. If you are her friend she will do anything for you. If you are not, you will soon warm to her hardy welcoming and great sense of humor. ❖



Kathy Lewis shares the day's events with friend James Fray.

In the Know In the Know

continued from page 6, Respite Weekends for Children

Staff work hard to make the weekend a vacation of fun by scheduling field trips to “Sally’s Dream Park,” a state-of-the-art adapted playground, or attend the many weekend community festivals that Orange County is known for. When at the Respite house they may play games, listen to music, explore their talents through select art projects or read books under the shade trees in the garden.

The schedule of upcoming weekends is as follows: October 21st & 22nd; and November 18th & 19th. Call Respite Coordinator Holly Rich at (845) 695-2561 for more information. ❖

Call for Dedicated Advocates

The New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) is, a governor-appointed body of 35 people, looking for candidates for membership from the following categories: people with developmental disabilities; parents; guardians or relatives of people with disabilities; and service provider representatives. The Council has an Executive Committee and 3 standing committees. Members’ terms are limited.

Funded through the Federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the Council seeks to assist New Yorkers with developmental disabilities to receive the services and support programs necessary to achieve personal independence, community integration and increased productivity. The DDPC advocates for the people, with the intention of creating choices for people with developmental disabilities. The areas of priority for the DDPC include: educational and early intervention service and reform; health care; community based living; employment; access to services; and training in responsibility and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities.

Council members’ responsibilities include attending quarterly meetings and various standing committee meetings in the Capital District. Members serve an integral role in the DDPC's grant funding initiatives through their communication and involvement with local community organizations and businesses seeking to develop and implement such worthwhile programs. The contributions of the DDPC play a vital role in maintaining New York State’s exceptional level of quality services and life options for people with developmental disabilities.

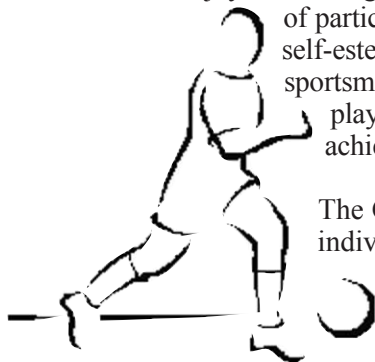
To learn more about the DDPC, the website address is www.ddpc.state.ny.us The 2005 Annual Report provides a complete view of the Council’s recent accomplishments. For an application go to the Publications area of the website and click on Council Member Application, or call 1-800-395-3372. ❖

In Support of Sport

The board of directors of the Crystal Run Village Foundation, Inc. has approved a \$5,000 donation towards the plan for renovating a soccer field for a Challenger Soccer League. The project, spearheaded by the Family Empowerment Council, looks to expand the success of the Challenger Baseball League. Many of the soccer players will be children receiving Service Coordination through Crystal Run Village, Inc.

The Challenger Divisions of sports are programs for youngsters 5-18 who have developmental and physical disabilities. The Challenger Leagues are linked with mainstream divisions of Little League sports. The programs make it possible for children to enjoy Little League style participation in an athletic environment structured to their abilities. The benefits

of participating in sports are both therapeutic and social: the strengthening of the participants’ self-esteem; opportunities to integrate into other divisions of play, and the disciplines of teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play. Children learn the fundamentals of the game, wear uniforms and use playing equipment. They can feel what it's like to be cheered and earn awards for their achievements.



The Crystal Run Village Foundation, on occasion, donates to projects for the benefit of individuals receiving services through “the agency” who live in the community at home with their families. Approximately 5 years ago a donation was made to assist in the building of a handicapped accessible playground entitled “Sally’s Dream”, at Thomas Bull Memorial Park in Montgomery. ❖

Crucial Gains in Mental Health Funding

The Association for Community Living announced that this year’s lobbying efforts combined with the work of the legislature and governor, resulted in budgetary increases to the infrastructure and new bed development for housing and rehabilitation services for people with a mental illness. Following are the appropriations from the final New York State Budget for programs offered through the Office of Mental Health.



Members of the Joint Membership of Health and Community Agencies met with Assembly Member Annie Rabbitt (center), 97th Assembly District, during a recent visit to the Legislative Office Building in Albany

- All non-trended residential and almost all grant-funded non-trended programs will receive a 2.5% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) this year as well as COLA’s tied to the Consumer Price Index for the next 2 fiscal years beginning in 2007.
- Supported Housing in 12 downstate counties, including NYC, will receive a \$6.5 million dollar one-time increase for the second year in a row — an approximate 7-9% operating increase. These programs will receive the 2.5% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) on top of the \$6.5 million. The legislature added \$850,000 to increase stipends in all counties that were not included in the \$6.5 million downstate increase. This will provide a 3-4% increase in addition to the 2.5% COLA.
- In addition, the Licensed Housing programs will receive the three year COLA, including the CR-SROs.
- A third joint NY/NY III agreement was signed by the Governor and Mayor Bloomberg. It will provide 9,000 new units of housing (5,550 for persons or families with psychiatric illnesses) in NYC over the next ten years. In addition, the legislature added \$810,000 for 55 new units of housing earmarked specifically for adult home residents ready to leave the adult home.

The Association for Community Living (ACL) is a statewide membership organization of more than 125 not-for-profit agencies that provide housing and rehabilitation services to over 20,000 people diagnosed with serious and persistent psychiatric disabilities. The ACL advocates on behalf of its members on mental health issues with New York State, federal and local government, and the public.
 For more information visit www.aclnys.org❖

Crystal Run Village Mental Health Program Census

Programs Funded by NYS Office of Mental Health:

- **Individuals Served:** 53 adults*
- **Families Served:** 9 adults/13 children
- **Supportive Case Management:** 20 adults
- **Walden House Community Residence:** 12**
- **The agency’s Supported Employment program serves 7-11 adults receiving mental health services**

Programs Funded by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development:

- **Supportive Program Families:** 7 adults /10 children
- **Shelter Plus Care MI/MR Adults:** 6**
- **Shelter Plus Care Individuals:** 6

* Four beds are for adults with a primary psychiatric diagnosis and a dual diagnosis of developmental disability.

**Individuals have a primary psychiatric diagnosis and a dual diagnosis of a developmental disability .

Crystal Run Village mental health services are delivered through a contractual relationship with the Orange County Department of Mental Health, and through state and federal funding.



Crystal Run Village
Foundation, Inc.

NEWS

8th Annual Golf Tournament

The sponsors and golfers came out in full force on Monday June 12th in support of the Crystal Run Village Foundation, Inc. for its 8th Annual Golf Tournament at the Otterkill Golf and County Club. There was a lot of great golf played and another kind of golf, too, by those with marginal skills; however, everyone seemed to have a great time. Good weather prevailed; it was a pleasant and successful day.. Importantly, the event raised nearly \$20,000.

We salute all contributors, participants and volunteers for teeing-it-up for this annual fundraising event and for making the valuable work of the Crystal Run Village Foundation, Inc. a part of your professional and personal life. The financial resources you donate augment our programs for people with differing abilities, making the delivery of innovative and more personalized services possible.

Winning Foursome: Building Corp II
 Second Place: Fellenger Engineering
 Third Place: Empire Avionics
 Closest to the Pin: Eliot Kantor
 Straightest Drive: Phil Borko
 Longest Drive: Natalie Hoszko, Michael Orlando

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 Community Foundation of Orange County
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(Above, from left to right)
Enjoying the great weather were:
Tom Savona, Heart Advocates;
Carl Bonitz, Paetec Communications Corporation;
Pete McComb, Independent Telecommunications
Corporation; Carl Brandt,
Paetec Communications Corporation.



(Above, from left to right)
The gold sponsor for the event,
Hagedorn and Company,
was represented by the
foursome comprised of:
Robert Samuel, Bryan Doane,
Robert Leffler, Steven Leffler.



(From left to right)
The winning foursome,
Building Corp II:
Doug Braune, Garry Brown,
Kent Korber and Rolf Enquist,
pose with a unique product displayed
during the event courtesy of
Orange County Golf Carts.



Crystal Run Village
Foundation, Inc.

NEWS

2006 Dinner Dance Honorees

Innovator of the Interactive Network of Care

Commissioner Maul is responsible for overseeing services to approximately 130,000 New Yorkers who have developmental disabilities. These include state and voluntary operated community-based day services for approximately 48,000 persons, residential services for more than 35,000 people, service coordination for more than 56,000 people, and respite and other family supports for more than 55,000 individuals that enable families to care for their family members at home.

Commissioner Maul is credited with designing and directing Governor Pataki's nationally acclaimed NYS-CARES (New York State-Creating Alternatives in Residential Environments and Supports) initiative, as well as with creating an innovative system-wide approach to developing services in the community and budgeting practices to support them. The nationally acclaimed program has a reputation for having restored hope to New York's citizens with developmental disabilities. At the time of its creation it was the most comprehensive plan in the county addressing the needs of people on an out-of-home residential waiting list. Under his direction, OMRDD has moved toward a more person-centered system, offering choice and individualized services to people through an interactive network that includes the state, private providers, parents, family members, volunteers, advocates and the people being served.

As a result of Maul's efforts state and voluntary service providers like Crystal Run Village, Inc. use funds with more flexibility and cost effectiveness than ever before. At the same time providers give personalized care and treatment and involve families in decisions concerning services for their loved ones. ❖

Reliant Alliance

Crystal Run Village, Inc. began its relationship with Joseph Todora when the agency's Fallsburg campus was still in operation. He provided much support and encouragement at a time when the agency was looking to expand its community-based service options. Todora has been the Director of the Sullivan County Department of Community Services for 5 years. He provides oversight and accountability for local and state resources that invest in the county's network of services pertaining to mental health, developmental disabilities, alcoholism and substance abuse rehabilitation. With an operating budget of close to \$8.1-million and revenues of approximately \$6-million, Todora coordinates the efforts of a staff of 90 for the delivery of quality services that are accessible, responsive and in the best interest of the people living in Sullivan County.

On a monthly basis, the Community Services Department provides for the administration and oversight of day treatment, intensive psychiatric rehabilitation, outpatient services and case management for more than 1,000 county residents. The department also provides assessments for family court and criminal court, and is actively involved in the development and operation of the county's drug courts. ❖



Thomas A. Maul,
Commissioner of the Office
of Mental Retardation and
Developmental Disabilities.



**Joseph A. Todora (left) Director of
Community Services in Sullivan
County receives a gift of art from
Crystal Run Village, Inc.
Executive Director Jim Lawler.
The artwork was created by a
resident living in one of the
agency's group homes.**

Welcome from the Executive Director

Dear Families, Friends and Associates:

Welcome to the 17th Annual Crystal Run Village Foundation Dinner Dance. In these times when images are transmitted to us of one urgent human crisis after another, and the appeal for help ever greater, I thank you for remembering the needs of people with developmental disabilities by being here and by sending your donations in the direction of our foundation. The population of our service recipients and their needs are increasingly more diverse.

Indeed, the world seems to be confronting extremes, whether it be economic, political, climatological or social. In our part of the world, the work of enhancing the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities, we too are facing polarity. While it is a cause for real celebration, we cannot help but be preoccupied with the broadening gap between the needs of the aging population we presently serve and the young people that are choosing Crystal Run Village as their service provider. The creativity, energy and staffing skills required in meeting the special needs of elderly dependents and the contemporary needs of the young are challenging. We strive daily in the development of our capacity to provide appropriate and meaningful programs.

Looking back, we see that reform has given the people in our community-based residential program the opportunity for a more complete life. Our active seniors express their wish to no longer wake to an alarm clock, of retiring from their day programs to pursue more individualized interests. Modern medical technologies are helping them live longer and they are affected by the usual conditions of aging that require more intense care.

Conversely, the young people participating in our programs have developed as part of a family unit in a community context with the influences of pop culture. They have contemporary expectations along with the attitudinal behaviors of youth that impact their choices in recreation, employment and personal lifestyles. Services must correspond not only to their experiences, but staff must sustain the motivation necessary for achieving the lofty goals that young people with disabilities are setting for themselves.

The people in this room tonight and all people have a stake in the innovation of resources, greater program flexibility and boundless community inclusion. The position we take in advancing services will shape the human right to live in dignity as a senior, the freedoms synonymous with youth and the diverse needs of those in the middle. No matter the extremes in the human condition, it is our interconnectedness as human beings that must prevail. Together we can truly influence a sustainable world for the greater good.

Thank you for coming.

The Verdict is in at Jorie Court

It is a fact known to many professionals in the human services field - Crystal Run Village, Inc. is the "go to" agency in residential services for people with developmental disabilities who are dually diagnosed with a sensory impairment. This stellar reputation results from the agency's success since 1992 in providing services at its Crystal Visions residence in Warwick. So, when the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities wisely noted that the needs of a number of blind and/or deaf individuals were not being met, Crystal Run Village was tapped for the development of a new residence.



Jorie Court, a new agency residence.

The residence, known as Jorie Court, opened early this year and the four men are settling-in to their new home and neighborhood. In keeping with the plan of providing more personalized services, each gentleman has a bedroom of his own. The staff at Jorie Court are experienced in American Sign Language (ASL) and on-going training is offered through the agency's Education and Training Department. Tactile sign language, a slight variation of ASL, is used by a deaf-blind person living in the house. He signs partly by holding the hands of the other conversational partner and feeling the hand movements.

The residents and staff have joined the American Sign Language Club in Newburgh, allowing them the opportunity to socialize with other deaf people. The social force known as "deaf culture" is a conscious communal force that takes pride in being separate and distinct. For one resident in particular, the opportunity to mingle with what the culture defines as 'his own kind' is a reawakening. For a number of years he lived in a residence elsewhere, where no one knew how to communicate in sign (his) language. Despite many years of schooling in Boston where he learned and practiced sign he has had to start over again, having lost his language skill from lack of use.

On issues of fact, any visitor to the house would judge Jorie Court guilty of providing a fine community residence, indeed.❖

"Services for the Integration and Empowerment of People with Disabilities"

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Middletown, NY 10941

Crystal Run Village, Inc.



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