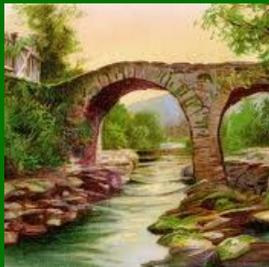


A Bit O' Blarney

Fall 2012



Fall 2012 Issue

Save the Date

Saturday, December 8, 2012

Friends and Family
Christmas Party at
Lucarelli's Banquet
Center
12:30pm-4:00 pm

Saturday, March 9, 2013

Friends and Family
St. Patrick's Day Party at
Lucarelli's Banquet
Center
12:15pm-4:00 pm

Thursday, May 23, 2013

DD Day
at
Niagara Falls Conference
Center
8:00 am

Sunday, January 20, 2013

Special Olympics Bowling
Tournament at
Thruway Lanes
11:30am

Stanley, Me and The Galway Family Tree

Submitted by Tracy Glashauser

While attending a celebration of life in early November for David Blake, the realization came to me that Stanley and I are the original folks from the Galway House.

It has been almost eighteen years since Stanley and his four friends moved in to the house on Forest Avenue from the Western New York DDSO. This was the planting of a new seed, and a new beginning. In spite of different challenges, we learned to work through things together while the house grew in to a happy and warm HOME.

It brought me great joy walking through the door each day knowing my friends would be there. We became a family. Sadly, like all families, sometimes we lose those we love and some leaves fell from our tree. Although it is difficult when you lose a loved one, we move forward keeping them in our memory. These fallen leaves have now made way for new blossoms, new folks, allowing our tree to grow. Later our house was moved to Detroit Street in Farnham but that didn't change much. We still kept the same name, same love and same sense of friendship.

Stanley and I have seen a lot of faces, met a lot of friends and made a lot of memories through the history of our house. We look forward to making memories with those who become new members of our family as our tree grows on, while we still keep those who have passed on close to us.





From Our CEO

Barbara Lamoreaux

Earlier this year I mailed out 261 satisfaction surveys to our families and advocates. I appreciated hearing back from 63 of you who took the time to respond. I am very pleased to report that 97.8% of the people that completed the questionnaire are satisfied with the services that their loved one receives. I am particularly proud of the appreciation expressed by many families for the respite services offered at our Kiley and Shannon homes.

Respite provides short-term visits, either hourly or overnights, to families that have their loved one living at home with them. It is a valued service for caregivers that wish to take a vacation, have a weekend break, or just getaway for a few hours to enjoy dinner and a movie. At the same time, it gives participants an opportunity to build friendships and enjoy activities with their peers in a supervised situation.

Shannon opened in 2007 and was used as the model for the state to develop their certification process for the freestanding respite program. In 2009 we opened our Kiley children's center where we are able to accommodate up to 6 children at a time. Many of the youngsters have behavioral challenges that require specific modifications to the building in order to protect visitors. Enhanced staffing patterns along with specialized training is often necessary to adequately meet the supervision needs of the children. The waitlist for this service is already over 100 people. We project the average number of years that a family will wait for their first visit is a minimum of 6 years. Although these two programs were opened relatively a short while ago, Claddagh has a long history of providing respite services which first started in our Mayfield house in the late 1980s.

Much of the success of our existing programs goes to Patrick Guerin III for developing the proposals, and ensuring the ongoing quality of their operation. Sue Hoff and managers Krystal Heater and Christy Norton lead a dedicated and compassionate staff for which we are very appreciative. As the state moves toward more community-based services, and the construction of fewer permanent residences, the demand for respite will grow. As always, Claddagh remains committed to assisting families and their loved ones. If you are interested in respite, please call, Patrick Guerin III at (716) 549-6495 ext. 331.

CLADDAGH
A place where
LOVE is unconditional
TRUST is earned, and
FRIENDSHIPS are nurtured

Citizenship Committee



The Citizenship Committee is a self advocacy group that meets on the last Wednesday of every other month. The group most recently met in September.

The members planned and organized the Halloween Dance. All of our monthly dances are being held in memory of John O'Donnell. John was a Volunteer for many years and a huge part of Claddagh. He loved to join our dances, dinners, vacation program and special dinners.

The committee members discussed the importance of voting in the upcoming election and were informed on how to register to vote if they haven't yet. Several also signed up to attend the

Candidates Hour at Southeast Works. This is a great opportunity to hear all the candidates speak on issues of importance in our community. The committee will elect new officers at their next meeting on Wednesday, November 28th. We will be filling the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Pictured above are Committee Members: Frances Gabel, Treasurer; JoAnn LiPuma, Secretary; Patrick Keem Director of Residential & Program Supports at Candidates Hour on October 10th with Assemblyman Dave DiPietro

Day Hab News

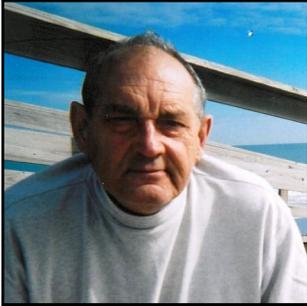


Derby Day Hab staff Rose Swiatkowski and Jackie Bettinger have a strong belief in the abilities of the people that they work with. In October they worked alongside Anthony Lehsten to support him and his goal of sharing his amazing talent with other people at Claddagh. It all began with an idea and Anthony working with the people he needed to set this goal in motion.

Rose and Jackie gave support and encouragement for AJ as he worked on organizing an Art Class for the people at day hab. It was no easy task! Anthony had to find out who was interested in an art class. He then had to work around their volunteering schedules and create a schedule for the classes that worked for everyone. He and the staff developed a teaching strategy, and are organizing their start up materials.

As a result of all that work, Anthony plans to begin teaching 2 classes every Friday by mid-November. Anthony, and the people that he will be teaching are glad for his accomplishments. Pictured above is Anthony Lehsten and Jackie Bettinger, as they develop the schedule of classes to distribute to those who signed up.

In Memory of our Claddagh Family



John O'Donnell served as a volunteer for our vacation program, an advocate for people who needed someone to help speak on their behalf, and most recently John was a member of our Quality Management committee. He is also the husband of our colleague and friend, Betty O'Donnell. John made us all smile with a quick joke or a simple poke on the arm.

June 17, 2012



Dorothy Dams is a name that still brings smiles to the many familiar faces; and warmth to the hearts that she touched while at Claddagh. As the holidays approach her spirit and energy lives on through her loved ones, and the people lucky enough to help care for her. As we remember her life and the love that she blessed us with this holiday season; let us not forget the memories of a sweet warm hearted woman who approached each day with a smile. August 4, 2012



Jason Fuller joined the Claddagh Family in October 1994. You could not help being captivated by Jason's beautiful smile. It didn't take much to make Jay happy. A trip to Tim Horton's, a hot shower, a new pair of sunglasses or a baseball cap and Jay would fill the room with his smile. He is missed by all. September 17, 2012



Pat Stacy began her employment at our Shorehaven house in 1989. In 1996 she started in our Day Hab. She had a huge heart and she loved the "folks". She was very "crafty", and over the years she made beautiful gifts and holiday decorations that could compete with any shown in the most prestigious magazines! Many of us worked with her over the years, and we all loved her. Pat's passing has left a huge hole in our Claddagh family. September 19, 2012



David Blake joined the Claddagh family. He made many lasting relationships with others no matter where he went. David shared his home with many different people over the years. Each of those people grew to love him, the way everyone came to, when they saw that smile. The love that David left at Galway, and his infectious laugh, will live forever.

November 1, 2012

**On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to congratulate
the following
employees for their years of service with Claddagh:**

Five Years

James Carney	Doreen Chaplin	Susan Colling
Beverly Crowe	Andrea Cwynar	James Dix
Perry Dix	Kimberlee Dolan	Daniel Eagan
Wayne Fraccica	Andrew Franz	Danielle Guenot
Mariya Halenda	Kimberly Ham- mond	Deborah Hyde
Christina Jenkins	Stanley Kent	Danielle Kijania
Brittany Leone	Anna Marie Mock	Lynne Nagel
Kitrina Noe	Terra Reiche	Karen Schmigiel
Rachele Siener	Megan Starr	Bailey Streiff
Maranda Villa	Rachel Welsted	Rachel Wray
Brian Wray		

Ten Years

James Carney	Doreen Chaplin	Susan Colling
Beverly Crowe	Andrea Cwynar	James Dix
Perry Dix	Kimberlee Dolan	Daniel Eagan
Wayne Fraccica	Andrew Franz	Danielle Guenot
Mariya Halenda	Kimberly Ham- mond	Deborah Hyde
Christina Jenkins	Stanley Kent	Danielle Kijania
Brittany Leone	Anna Marie Mock	Lynne Nagel
Kitrina Noe	Terra Reiche	Karen Schmigiel
Rachele Siener	Megan Starr	Bailey Streiff
Maranda Villa	Rachel Welsted	Rachel Wray
Brian Wray		

Fifteen Years

Shauna Blake	Janet Cervola	Elaine Mendrysa
Linda Niewiemi	Patricia Tucker	

Twenty-Five Years

Harriet Preshoot

Thirty Years

Barbara Lamoreaux

Sustaining Membership Drive

In early February 2013, we will once again begin our Sustaining Membership Drive. We have been fortunate over the years to have a strong group of supporters. As we settle in to a new government and budgetary system, our expenses continue to rise and funding continues to decrease. This year we are looking to broaden our group and are hoping for our most successful campaign yet!

Our sustaining membership drive and all of our fundraisers are more important than ever, as we strive to keep our quality supports and service in place.

Donation cards will be mailed in February 2013, but we accept donations all year long.

If you are interested in making a donation or for more information on Claddagh's fundraiser, please contact Kerry Daniels-O'Brien at (716) 947-5857 ext. 310 or thru email at kerry.daniels-obrien@claddaghcomm.org



Claddagh Theatre Group to Perform Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs

Play auditions are complete and the roles have been assigned for this year's production of "Snow White". We had a great turn out for auditions and the decisions for lead roles was VERY difficult.

This is going to be a very exciting show coming Spring 2013!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact:
Becky Friend @ rebecca.friend@claddaghcomm.org



Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day celebrates 25 years

The convention, also commonly known as DDDAY!!, has long been a staple of the WNY developmentally disabled community, bringing together local and regional agencies, industry connected vendors and suppliers, direct support professionals and the individuals that all of these groups support. The conference is the largest one of its kind in the United States and has been growing bigger and more sophisticated with every year

This is a day to celebrate the accomplishments and talents of some of the people we support. This year's DD Day will again be held at the Niagara Falls Convention Center. This venue allows convention attendees and exhibitors to be able to take advantage of the centers: one level floor plan, modern amenities, accessibility features, technology and breakout rooms for workshops and seminars. Professionals from many different area agencies that specialize in services for people with developmental disabilities and similar health related industries will be on hand to provide guidance, literature, and general information about services that the organizations or businesses provide. Each year there are performers, art contests and displays throughout the day.

There are also informational workshops on specific topics. Some workshops focus on families and advocates, some on staff development and others for people receiving services. There are many vendors each year where you can find out what area agencies or companies have to offer.

If you were unable to attend last year's celebration, please mark your calendars for May 23, 2013 . It is a wonderful day of celebration! Please visit www.ddday.org for more information.

Claddagh Family Support Group

If you currently do not receive announcements from the Family Support Group and would like to be added to the mailing list, please feel free to contact Cindy Theurer at 438-9449 or at 645-5609. All family members, guardians and advocates of the people we support are invited to attend the meetings. In addition to the meetings the group actively volunteers at Claddagh events. Meetings are usually held on the 2nd Monday evening of each month at an area restaurant.

Comments and suggestions on our newsletter can be made to

Kerry Daniels-O'Brien @ (716) 947-5857 or kerry.daniels-obrien@claddaghcomm.org

In our effort to go paperless by 2014, we are looking to gather email addresses and begin sending our information in electronic format. If you would like to receive our information via email, please contact Kerry at the above address.



Claddagh Commission's Friends & Family Christmas Party



Lucarelli's Banquet Center

1830 Abbott Rd., Lackawanna

Saturday, December 8, 2012

Use Back Entrance/Parking Lot

Doors open at 12:15pm - 4:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$13.00 each

Lunch (1:00 p.m.): Soup, Chef Salad, Roast Sirloin, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Rolls, Coffee, Tea,
Pop & Dessert

Mail this portion of this page and payment to (Checks made payable to Claddagh Commission, Inc)

Kerry Daniels-O'Brien, Claddagh Commission, Inc, PO Box 266, Derby, NY 14047

Name: _____ # of tickets: _____

Address: _____

Claddagh Commission, Inc.

7030 Erie Rd, PO Box 266

Derby, NY 14047