

A Bit O' Blarney

Spring 2012



Spring 2012 Issue

Save the Date

Monday, June 11th, 2012
Annual Golf Tournament
at Tri County Country
Club

Sunday, June 24th, 2012
Annual Chicken BBQ at
7200 Lakeshore Rd.
Derby

Beginning at 11:30 until
sold out

Sat. December 8, 2012
Friends and Family
Christmas Party at
Lucarelli's Banquet
Center
12:30pm-4:00 pm

Sat. March 9th, 2013
Friends and Family
St. Patrick's Day Party at
Lucarelli's Banquet
Center
12:15pm-4:00 pm

Happy 10 year Anniversary to the New Angola Theater

It has been 10 years since Claddagh re-opened the New Angola Theater. Since that time, the upgrades to our building and equipment have continued, including a major facelift to our balcony area. In 2011, thanks to the generous donations of our friends, a new digital projector with 3-D and caption capabilities was purchased to keep pace with new technology and to help insure that our Theater would remain competitive in the future business environment. Although the Theater is used primarily for movies, our goal is to increase community participation in using it for both private and public gatherings. In the recent past the Theater has hosted such events as weddings, corporate meetings, an Illusionist, A Beatles Tribute, birthday parties, and a beauty pageant. For the upcoming year, a concert series and film festival are being considered.

On May 16, 2012, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the partnership between Claddagh and the Evans community; and to thank the generous supporters who gave to our fundraising campaign for the digital projector.

Barbara Lamoreaux greeted members of the Board of Directors, service participants, staff, families, community members and friends. A plaque listing all donors was presented and will be displayed in the foyer of the New Angola Theater. The group shared refreshments and stories about the theater. The ceremony preceded a concert by local favorites "Country Memories" which was also attended by 175 people.





From Our CEO

Barbara Lamoreaux

I would like to thank those of you who have taken the time to return our annual family/advocate satisfaction surveys. We are in the process of reading and compiling your responses. Claddagh uses a variety of surveys throughout the year to evaluate how well we are doing, and to identify the areas that we need to improve in. Some of these reviews are done by external agencies, while the majority are part of an extensive internal management system. We believe that “quality is never truly achieved”, therefore it is necessary to implement continuous quality improvement plans. For more than 10 years, these improvement initiatives have helped to assure our status as a COMPASS agency. As most of you know, we are entering a managed care environment for our services. As this new era begins, all providers are being mandated to measure and report on quality for the purpose of public record. OPWDD has begun to publicize “report cards” available via their website at www.opwdd.ny.gov. I am very proud of our staff and the results of our first report. However, as an agency that has made quality improvement a part of our culture, you can be assured that we are not resting on our laurels.

We are already engaging in a number of new projects with more pending. Beginning this summer, I am pleased to report that we will be collaborating with OPWDD in a case study involving the piloting of a new assessment tool. This assessment will eventually be used state-wide to determine eligibility as well as strengths and needs for people requesting services. As a comprehensive assessment, input will be requested from the individual and their family members, as well as from staff. By participating in this case study, we will also achieve more flexibility in developing both living and service opportunities for those who desire them. You may hear this referred to as the “People First- Case Study”. Importantly, Claddagh will have a voice in helping to shape the future direction of our service system as opposed to having others set the way for us.

Another critical component to OPWDD’s new initiatives is an increased accountability on agencies to provide person-centered services. Although I believe Claddagh already does a good job in this area, our board and administration remain committed to continuous improvement. As we re-focus on individual services, Claddagh has a pilot of our own underway at several supervised residences. We have identified staff to serve as “Life Coaches”. Our Life Coaches are responsible to support, listen, train, encourage and facilitate communication on behalf of the residents that they work with. Although we have started with a small number of participants, we expect the concept of Life Coach to grow in the months ahead as the state moves toward one comprehensive plan for each person.

As services to people with developmental disabilities enters a managed care environment, it will be important for us to remain committed to our continuous quality improvement philosophy- ready to embrace new service models, methods of funding and person-centered approaches to all that we do. Although there is still much speculation to what the future may hold, there is also excitement and enthusiasm over the potential opportunities that will exist for those that choose to imagine the possibilities.

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

JODY RATHBUN

April 10, 1957-May 2, 2012

Jody joined the Claddagh Family in February 2006. She moved in to the Galway home in Farnham. It was a great opportunity for Jody to stay in the community that she had grown up in. Galway is just a quick ride around the corner to her parents, Howard (Mike) & Barbara Rathbun.



Jody enjoyed many activities. She loved to shop, and listen to LOUD country music in the morning. Throughout Jody's life she developed unique relationships with only those "very" special people. One of the things that her parents were proud of was the fact that Jody was able to teach others valuable lessons through her unspoken words.

Jody's life was celebrated at Addison Funeral home & Holy Cross Lutheran Church by her family and friends.

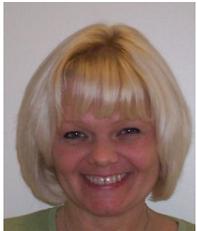
Jody will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Citizenship Committee

Congratulations to 2012 Every Day Hero Award Recipients:

Kim Hammond & Jeannie Clark

Kim Hammond joined the Claddagh Family on October 10, 2007. She currently works with the men of Foxford. Greg, Richie, Dan & Ryan all have many wonderful things to say about Kim.



"She is always in a great mood when she comes to work". Kim is constantly doing extra things around the house to make the guys feel comfortable. The men particularly like when she helps bake and decorate for the holidays.

Kim is very supportive and has a patient and kind personality. She is willing to offer advice and listen when someone needs to share their thoughts with a friend.

The men that live at Foxford are very grateful to have Kim a part of their home.

Jeannie Clark has been working with the Waterford individuals for the past 4 years however she joined the Claddagh Family on May 30, 2003.



She is a caring person, and helpful to everyone. Jeannie does many extra things above and beyond her regular job duties. She works very hard to help improve the lives of the people she works with.

Jeannie enjoys helping the residents research items or activities on the internet. She is also willing to re-arrange her personal schedule to accommodate the needs of the people at Waterford. On short notice, she accompanied one of the residents to Long Island when his mother passed away.

The group at Waterford is very thankful to have Jeannie Clark as a friend. They nominated her as a very deserving recipient of this award.

Citizenship Committee 2011-2012 Officers

President: Julieanna Cartagena, Vice-President: Robert Edwards, Treasurer: Joann LiPuma Secretary: Frances Gabel



Claddagh Commission 6th Annual Golf Tournament

@ Tri County Country Club

June 11, 2012

Format: *4 person scramble with lunch*

Contests: *Hole-in-One for a NEW CAR, Longest Drive,
Closest to the Pin, Best Foursome Score and many more*

**18 holes of golf with cart*

**Dinner in the Club House (open bar one hour before dinner)*

Single Golfer: \$125.00

Foursome: \$460.00

*For more information: call Jeff Souder @ 549-6495 or
Kerry Daniels-O'Brien @ 947-5857 ext. 310*

Claddagh Commission 's Chiavetta Chicken BBQ @ Mayfield Grounds

June 24, 2012

11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (or until sold out)

COME JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED DAY BY THE LAKE

Chicken Dinner, Music, 50/50, Chinese Auctions

Raffle of a Natural Gas Grill Donated by National Fuel

See back page for more details

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 normally held on the 2nd Monday evening of each month.

Comments and suggestions on our newsletter can be made to

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

Claddagh's Volunteer of the Year

In 2003, **Stephanie Gregorie** decided to increase her presence as a member of our Claddagh Family. As a sibling of a person receiving services, and a retired school administrator, she brought both a family and professional perspective to our organization as she became a member of our board of directors.

We all soon fell in love with her enthusiasm, passion and compassion for those at Claddagh. Since then, she gives us her time as a member of our Corporate Compliance, Finance and Quality Management committees. She can be seen working on the gardens, or with her husband, Paul, selling pop at our BBQ. She is full of ideas on how to make things better at Claddagh, and ultimately for the people that we support. Most importantly she is willing, ready and able to back her ideas with actions.

Stephanie has been seen setting up bingo games, cooking dinner at Adare, writing letters for donations, pruning bushes, and planting flowers and shrubs at the English Reflection gardens. She has an infectious laugh; and loves to joke which keeps a smile on the faces of others through any project.

Stephanie has many loves here at Claddagh, but without a doubt, her brother Jonathan is at the top of the list. We salute and thank Claddagh's 2012 Volunteer of the Year.



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT IS HER BROTHER JON, STEPHANIE, DAUGHTER JILL AND HER HUSBAND PAUL

Evans Center Fire Department honors two Claddagh Employees

David Kohler received a service award for donating many years of his time as a member of the local fire department. It was noted that David takes great pride in keeping the kitchen clean and ready for the next event. David is a member of Claddagh's cleaning crew.

Amanda Schmitt was declared *Firefighter of the Year*

The members of Evans Center honored Amanda for completing her EMT & Firefighter-1 curriculum in a year. She also responded to the required number of calls for help, keeping her membership current.

This is a major accomplishment in itself as Amanda gave birth to her daughter Lily while working as a valuable volunteer in our community!



We would like to extend our sincere congratulations to both of them.



Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory huge success for Claddagh Theatre Group

"Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" took place on March 24, 2012 in the Lake Shore High School Auditorium.

This year's presentation was a great success! Approximately 300 people were in attendance.

The actors and actresses did a wonderful job performing for such a large crowd. Thank you to the people from day hab for baking the items for the ever so popular intermission bake sale.

Over the past few years the Theatre group has been growing and it was awesome to see so many talented people up there on stage performing and having a great time. Thank you to all that helped to make our 2012 production such a fun and memorable experience for everyone. We are all excited to see what production will be done for 2013!



Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day is a day to celebrate the accomplishments and talents of some of the people we support. This year's DD Day was held at the Niagara Falls Convention Center on May 24th, 2012. 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 other agencies or companies have to offer. Here is a small sample of the workshops offered this year: ***“Bullying with Students with Disabilities”***, ***“Autism Spectrum”***, ***“Legal and Financial Issues Affecting your Child with Disabilities”***, ***“People 1st 1115 Medicaid Waiver: An Opportunity or Threat”***, and ***“Diversity in your TEAM.”*** along with approximately 25 more.

The Keynote speaker this year was Zach Anner. He is 27 years old and from Buffalo, NY. He is a man with Cerebral Palsy who is a stand-up comic that gained world-wide attention after winning a contest on the Oprah Show and now has his own travel show on the OWN network. He travels around the country pushing his limits every way he can.

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



Erie County's 2012 Senior of the Year

Claddagh's own Mr. Phillip Muck was named Erie County's 2012 Senior of the Year.

On May 8th, 2012 he received this honor in Albany from Acting Director Greg Olsen from the NYS Office for the Aging.

On May 10th, Phil received a proclamation from Erie County Executive Mark Polancarz, at the Eden Library.

Phil is a retired principal from the Lake Shore School District. Mr. Muck's "*short version*" of accomplishments is a two page resume . He has been an active member of the Eden Library Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Construction of the Boys and Girls Club. Phil has been a member of the Evans Township Lions Club for over 20 years. He worked on the town time-capsule, landscape project, Bi-Centennial Committee and also helped develop the Master Plan in Eden.



He has been a service member of All Saints Lutheran Church for over 30 years serving as a deacon, greeter, usher and participated in many more projects there. He is also a Trustee of the Eden Historical Society.

We at Claddagh have been Blessed with his friendship for over 30 years. He has served on the Board of Directors, Finance Committee, and was a strong force in the renovation of the New Angola Theater. We are proud to have Mr. Muck and his wife Martha as part of the Claddagh Family.

Day Hab News



Angola Day Hab has a volunteer project called "Something for Seniors". Volunteers who deliver Meals on Wheels add a special something, a flower pot or homemade soaps to



the food trays at a holiday time or just to bring some cheer and a smile to the seniors.

*The people at Angola Day Hab raised \$500.00 for the SPCA this past winter, collecting returnable bottles and cans.

*The group at Derby Day Hab has now taken over the bottle collection project for Roswell Park. They will then visit Roswell on a regular basis to make the donation. The goal is to raise \$500.00. Any donations of bottles and cans are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at Derby Day Hab, Angola Day Hab or The Glen.



Claddagh Commission's Annual Chicken BBQ



7200 Lake Shore Road. Derby, NY 14047

Sunday, June 24, 2012

11:30pm - 4:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$9.00 each

Chinese Auction, 50/50 Drawing, Raffle of a Natural Gas Grill Donated by National Fuel.

Tickets can be purchased at the Guerin Building, 7030 Erie Road, Derby or
by mailing this portion of the 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: _____

Tickets also available the day of the BBQ until sold out.

Claddagh Commission, Inc.

7030 Erie Rd, PO Box 266

Derby, NY 14047