

The title "Sharing our Journey" was chosen to reflect the commitment we've made to residents, their families and our community...to be full partners with them on life's journey.

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### WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Jacob's Village is guided by a 15 member Board of Directors whose professions include healthcare, business, legal, social services, and ministerial. In January four new members were appointed including: Dr. Barbara Williams, Mr. Daryl Moore, Ms. Laura Roop, and Rev. Don Swanson. Each person's unique background and desire to serve the special needs population, brings a wealth of compassionate leadership to our organization. Featured in this issue are two of the newest members:

#### DR. BARBARA WILLIAMS, OTD, OTR



Dr. Williams is an assistant professor in the Occupational Therapy Program at U.S.I. where she is also Chair of the Selection Committee and Community Outreach Coordinator.

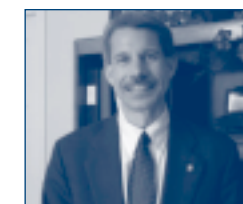
Primary teaching responsibilities include courses in the graduate curriculum. Dr. Williams also continues to practice at a local rehabilitation hospital. She is associated with the American Occupational Therapy Association and the Indiana Occupational Therapy Association. Clinical experience includes physical rehabilitation as well mental health. She has performed an international residency involving work in Canada. Barbara received her post-professional master's degree from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee and received her doctorate from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Barbara is excited about serving as a Board Member for Jacob's Village because she believes the concept is tremendous in spite of any challenges. "We all have worth and value. Jacob's Village is a facility that promotes the individual's independence and truly allows each person to realize their full potential." With so many worthwhile non-profit organizations in the

Evansville area, there are many Boards on which Dr. Williams could serve. However, the uniqueness of serving developmentally disabled adults is a passion of hers. "You know, it could be any one of us at any time. We never know what each day has in store. I want to help others the way I would want to be helped if the tables were turned."

Dr. Williams lives with her husband David and three sons in Wadesville.

#### DARYL MOORE



Mr. Moore currently serves as Executive Vice President-Chief Officer of Old National Bancorp, having been with the bank for 26 years in various positions and locations. He has served

on the Board of Directors of several non-profit organizations including the Rehabilitation Center, Evansville Small Business Assistance Corporation, Terre Haute Youth Services Bureau, and the Swope Art Museum. He has also been involved for many years in the Evansville youth soccer community. Daryl is a graduate of Indiana University with a degree in Economics and holds a graduate degree in banking from the University of Wisconsin.

"Serving on the Board of Directors allows me the perfect opportunity to help people," Daryl explained. "I know that my contribution to this organization makes a real difference to the men and women who live here."

Daryl and his wife Carol, live on the west side of Evansville. They have three children.

After serving on the Board of Directors since 2001, Dr. Michael Dukes and Robert Griffin have moved to an Advisory Board status. We are grateful for their years of service. The July issue of "Sharing our Journey" will feature Laura Roop and Don Swanson.

## Sharing Our Journey



### Mission Statement

We are guided by a belief in the uniqueness of every individual, and the right of that individual to realize his or her full potential. The mission of Jacob's Village is to support adults with developmental disabilities in their pursuit of developing life skills, interests, and maximum independence. To fulfill this mission, Jacob's Village offers a comprehensive program of residential, vocational, educational and social support services in an environment that fosters lifelong learning, self-sufficiency and dynamic community.

Jacob's Village is a 501-C-3 non-profit organization.

### U.E. SENIOR INTERN HEATHER GRAY

"I went to Career Services for help in designing my resume, and while there, learned about a unique internship opportunity at Jacob's Village," explains Heather Gray, a senior Sports Studies major at the University of Evansville. "I thought it would be a great experience to work directly with people who have special needs since I never had exposure to this during school."



Heather comes to Jacob's Village 2-3 times a week and works with each resident according to what they want and are able

to do. An evening visit with Heather may involve stretching, using weights, doing aerobics or yoga.

Upon receiving her B.S. in Science this May, Heather plans to return to her hometown in Wichita, Kansas and find a position working in a fitness program. When asked whether she feels she taught or learned more during her internship, Heather points out that she felt well equipped to assess and implement a comprehensive fitness plan. And as much as the residents have learned from Heather, she learned a lot from them too. "It has been a great experience helping people who have physical challenges. The work is rewarding!"

Have you seen us on TV? We owe a special thank you to Fire and Rain for producing our 30-second Public Service Announcement, and to Tri-Com for airing it on the television stations. **THANK YOU!**



It's "Tea Time!" Jacob's Village resident, Donna Kay prepares to join her friends for the Red Hat Society tea party at Woodbridge Health Care.



Jacob's Village staff members were certified in CPR/First Aid by the German Township Fire & Rescue Department on February 25. The training was interrupted only once for an emergency rescue call. Fortunately, the Fire & Rescue squad made it back in time for a well-deserved lunch!



Michael and Virgil survey the area where "Michael's Garden" will be planted. This summer's crop should yield plenty delicious vegetables. Stop by and see us!

Letter from Our President



Jacob's Village Board of Directors

- Lara Beck – Westpark Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
  - Jan Berkey – Private Counseling Practice
  - Ann Coy – Epilepsy Consultant – Retired
  - Ron Graul – Locust Street Company/ Gray Farms
  - Dan Grunow – Ritzy's
  - Andy Guagenti – Ritzy's
  - Frank Kanowsky – Ferro Corporation
  - Cheryl Kuchna – Jacob's Village
  - Joe Meyer – BKD, LLP
  - Daryl Moore – Old National Bank
  - Karen Neeley, M.D. – St. Mary's Family Practice Center
  - Laura Roop – Donaldson Capital Management
  - Mark Samila – Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn, LLP
  - Don Swanson – NorthWinds Church
  - Barbara Williams – University of Southern Indiana
- ADVISORY BOARD
- Michael Dukes, M.D. – The Women's Hospital
  - Robert Griffin – Escalade Sports

Settled in...

Five months after opening our doors, we are feeling 'settled in'. Our residents and staff go about their daily activities in what now seems like a familiar rhythm: going to work, fixing meals, doing household chores, shopping for groceries, visiting with family and friends, doing some volunteer work, going to church, taking in a basketball game. Days are full and people are enjoying life. We are glad to be offering, in even a small way, a supported living alternative for families who are seeking such an option. In fact, today in the state of Indiana, there are over 14,000 adults with developmental disabilities who are living with caregivers over the age of 60.



Cheryl Kuchna

In just the short time we have been accepting applications, a number of older adult caregivers have come to us grateful to have another option available for their son, daughter or sibling. If you know of families who might be interested in exploring Jacob's Village for a loved one, we are accepting applications for 3 current openings in our homes. Contact our office for information (963-5198).

As we continue to grow and develop, we would welcome your involvement and support. We invite you to become a partner with us in carrying out the work of Jacob's Village. With spring upon us, we have many volunteer opportunities available from outdoor yard work to office jobs. Would you and a few friends or a small group you are part of like to 'adopt-a-spot' and help maintain a landscape bed for the season? Would a group at your church be interested in getting involved with our Courtyard Project (see article) to do a fund-raiser to help us complete the project? Would you be available to run copies, assemble mailings, or run errands in support of our business offices? Would you know of someone who might be interested in some occasional work at our homes to cover vacation time of our staff? If you have an interest in getting acquainted with us and perhaps supporting our mission in some way, I invite you to contact us today...better still, come visit. We are happy to show you around and get acquainted.

Cheryl Kuchna  
President/C.E.O.



HELP WANTED

Looking for a job in a Christian home environment that allows you to serve others, while leaving you time for your own family? We have several openings for "as needed" Home Coordinator positions. You will work in the homes as needed to fill in for our full-time staff's vacation, sick, and personal time. Share your warm and caring personality—you will be blessed! For more information, please call the office at (812) 963-5198 and ask for Doug.

CONTACT US:

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Please email or call the office if you prefer to receive your newsletter by email, or if you are receiving more than one copy. We will remove your name from our mailing list at any time if you request it.

RECREATIONAL COURTYARD PROJECT IS UNDERWAY

Ahhh springtime...it has finally arrived! All of us at Jacob's Village are enjoying the sunshine, longer days, and pleasant evenings watching the sunset from our scenic vantage point. But as good as it is, things are about to get better. Very soon, residents and their guests will be able to enjoy their new "Recreational Courtyard."

The Courtyard will be a place for recreational involvement, skills development and community bonding, all of which will improve our resident's quality of life and help us further our mission which is to enrich the lives of adults with developmental disabilities. In the Courtyard, the residents will have opportunities to develop skills and hobbies, socialize, and participate in physical, recreational and leisure activities.

To complete the Courtyard project this spring, community support and volunteers are needed. The total cost of the Recreational Courtyard is approximately \$14,000 and will cover installation of the gazebo, wheelchair accessible sidewalks, flagpole, lawn furniture, landscape beds, lighting and fitness stations.

Contributions from Our Community



SCRIPPS HOWARD FOUNDATION AWARDS \$4,759

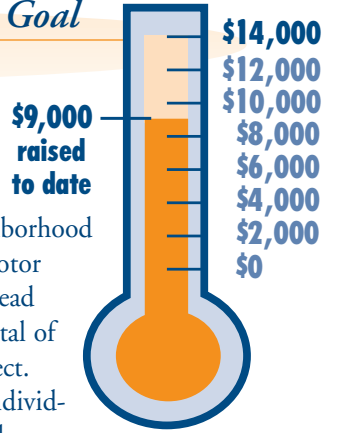
Whether clearing snow from the roads in the winter, or moving dirt in the summer, one piece of equipment is essential on a 132-acre tract of land: the tractor. A recent \$4,759 award from the Scripps Howard Foundation was used to help towards paying for a Kubota tractor for just such purposes. The check was presented on February 18, by Evansville Courier & Press Publisher, Jack Pate, and Marketing Director, Kathryn Gieneart. "We're pleased and honored to lend financial support to such a worthwhile and important cause," said Evansville Courier & Press President and Publisher Jack Pate. "This donation represents our strong belief in the value of Jacob's Village and our ongoing commitment to building a stronger community."

Five years ago on January 11, 2000, the Scripps Howard Foundation made their first donation to Jacob's Village in the amount of \$10,000.



Left to right: Marti Thornbury, Jack Pate, Cheryl Kuchna, & Kathryn Gieneart.

The Courtyard Project Goal



A local Eagle Scout who has secured the materials and funding necessary to complete his portion of the project will construct the gazebo this spring. In addition, Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market, Locust Street Co., Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, Inc., and Mead Johnson have each contributed. A total of \$9,000 has been secured for the project. Numerous other organizations and individuals are being approached to obtain the remaining \$5,000 needed to complete the Courtyard. To publicly acknowledge all donors and volunteers, a Dedication Ceremony is being planned for June.

Won't you help us? If you can contribute to this project please use the enclosed envelope and mark it "Courtyard Project." Or if you would like to help in any other way, please contact Marti Thornbury at (812) 963-5198 or email at mthornbury@jacobsvillage.org.

CEDAR HALL ELEMENTARY STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT DISABILITIES

The Governor's Council for People with disabilities declared the month of March as "Disability Awareness Month." Many schools in the area included awareness activities in their classrooms. One particular teacher, Cindy Albritton, wanted to do something especially meaningful for her students at Cedar Hall Elementary School in Evansville. "I want the boys and girls to know the proper way to speak with a person who has a disability. I want them to be aware that words are powerful.



Scott with Cedar Hall Elementary class.

Using the right words at the right time can make all the difference," she said. Mrs. Albritton requested a presentation for just over 150 third, fourth and fifth grade students. She knew the students would pay close attention to people who speak from experience.

Resident, Scott Huck, along with Program Director, Karin Macke, and Manager of Development, Marti Thornbury visited Cedar Hall on March 10. They spoke to each grade level, leaving them with bookmarks featuring some common tips for communicating with people who have disabilities.

*"If you are paralyzed, you can still walk with God.  
If you are deaf, you are still able to hear the Word of God.  
If you are blind, you are nevertheless able to see The Light.  
And even if you are mentally disabled, you can have the Mind of Christ."  
- Joni Eareckson Tada*

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