



The Valley Views

A Newsletter of the Ohio Valley Residential Services, Inc.

Redefining What an Ornament Is

December 2010

The Valley Views is published four times a year by The Ohio Valley Residential Services, Inc. (OVRs).

Designed for OVRs families, consumers, staff, and friends, the newsletter includes articles, training opportunities, and personal stories contributed by OVRs residents, staff, and families.

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Consumer Sites & Programs
Charlemar, Parkview, Ivanhoe,
Carmel Terrace, Cypress Way,
Ferncroft, North Bend, Shadymist,
Clovernook, Woodsfield, Hansford,
Lisbon, Meyerhill, Brookforest,
Epworth Court, Galbraith, Strifler,
Wayland, Cheviot Apartments,
Faircrest, Foster Settings, and
Supported Living

The Valley Views is proud to be the second-best newsletter, because every other newsletter claims to be the best.

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Cathy Hill

Because of the timing of the newsletter, there are many holiday OVRs festivities that will not make the deadline. One of the more imaginative, is a contest among all the homes for the best invented ornament...not some little bauble bought at Target, but one that incorporates a theme, which uses many differing kinds of glitter and pictures to reflect the home's character.

Last year, **Cathy Hill**, Home Coordinator of the Cheviot apartments, won. Her ornament incorporated the residents' photos and singing. She and all the members at Cheviot were awarded a dinner at the office prepared and served by the central office staff, including that "servant of the people," **Michael DeFrancesco**.

This year, Cathy, threw out the gauntlet. She wants nothing to do with some dinky little tree ornament, and instead—with the full cooperation of the residents of Cheviot—decorated the apartment complex, and has opened the place for a party right before Christmas. That, Cathy says, is her ornament.



This is last year's first-place winner, which was coordinated by Cathy Hill. The detail has each resident either in a window or wearing a Santa hat.

Celebrating the Foster Providers

On Sunday, November 7, OVRS was proud to host all providers in the foster program, and of course the individuals living with them, to a gathering at the Victory Parkway office for an afternoon of trading stories and sharing some delicious food. Karen Kelly, the program's coordinator, asked her father, Carl Biery, to help with catering for the event. He responded by preparing goodies for approximately 75 people, which included two large kettles of tasty soup—one of vegetable and the other ham and bean.

Barb Sweeney and Karen Kelly adorned the walls with photos of each of the providers, mostly in their homes and with the individuals to whom they have opened their homes.

For a bit of entertainment, there was a constant playing of a video, which captured two vivacious providers in their homes—Alana Russell and Monica Campbell. With no preparation, the two foster providers presented themselves and the ladies, who live with them, in a positive, upbeat, and articulate manner, which clearly mirrors their optimistic outlook on life.

The inspiring attitude is not singular to Alana and Monica. It is evident in all the providers—treating the individuals in their homes as family, with love, dignity, and respect.



Long-time foster provider
Donna McKee



Georgia Davis, who supports
three individuals in her home,
casts a bright smile.



Joslin Dawson and Chipper Frye



Aimee and Charles Spinks provide a
home for one individual and offer
respite services, too.

The Tricks of a Winner



Rockin' Ron, Carole Hignite, and Rollin' John

Carole Hignite works in the finance department reconciling client funds—tracking the what, where, and how much of each individual's personal funds. Unbeknownst to her colleagues at OVRs, when Carole hears of a contest she enters it—as “the fifth caller,” with a signed slip of her name in a bowl, or via her computer.

The sheer number of contests she has entered has worked in her favor. A few weeks ago, she dropped her name in a bowl. WGGR 103.5 FM called and informed her that she was the winner of a lunch for 30 people. She surprised her OVRs colleagues with a wonderful lunch with **Rockin' Ron** and **Rollin' John**, two of WGGR's popular DJs. *Vonderhaar's Catering* provided the succulent gourmet sandwiches and sweets.

At the lunch, Carole casually mentioned that she once also won a thousand-dollar mink coat. *Tenacity pays off!*

OVRs Board Members



Front row (left to right): Judi Heile, Steve Smith, Bob Schneider;
Back row (left to right): Rob Van Lear, Henry Bang, Dennis Mullins, Carey Kruer, and Beverly Casey; Not pictured: Jeff Ladenburger and Dr. Robert Hock

May He Rest in Peace

A most unfortunate accident took the life of an 82-year-old gentleman, who lived at the Ivanhoe Home for only a few months. He established himself as a person with kind words, a sense of humor, and an easy-going manner.

Just a couple of weeks ago, Leonard Miller was on his way to an Adult Day Service. The driver drove through Mt. Airy Forest, which was his usual travel route. The vehicle crossed a construction site with ice and standing water on the road. As the driver drove over the ice, the vehicle fish-tailed.

The vehicle turned on its side, and slid down an embankment. EMTs took Leonard to the hospital. Unfortunately, he suffered brain injury and died within a few days.

His younger brother told Ciara Howard, Ivanhoe Home Coordinator, that Leonard was as happy living at the Ivanhoe Home as he has been for a very long time.

Our condolences to the family of Leonard Miller.

Lots of Grilling...Maybe

In response to Home Coordinator Amanda Scherer's concern about evacuation, OVRs applied and received a grant from the State of Ohio for an accessible ramp from the back entrance. The hope is with the \$20,000 grant, OVRs will be able to add a 14' x 16' accessible deck along with a ramp to the home on Galbraith Road in Maderia.



George Timberlake captures the holiday spirit in this playful drawing.

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Community Services Supporting Individuals with
 Developmental Disabilities in the Home, Community,
 and in Everyday Choices

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