



The Valley Views

A Newsletter of the Ohio Valley Residential Services, Inc.

"Hit the Road, Jack..."



George Timberlake and Michael DeFrancesco

Michael DeFrancesco, executive director, announced to the OVRS Board and staff that he plans to retire from the agency by the end of March, 2013. He is working with the Board's selection committee, chaired by Judi Heile, to effect a smooth and compatible transition to new leadership. DeFrancesco has worked for the agency since its inception, approximately 40 years ago. He promises a "thank you" letter in the December newsletter.

He was 15 when he started at OVRS. He intends to write a four-volume set entitled, "Pensee—the Meaning of Life in Clifton." He promises it will be "riveting."

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The Valley Views is published four times a year by 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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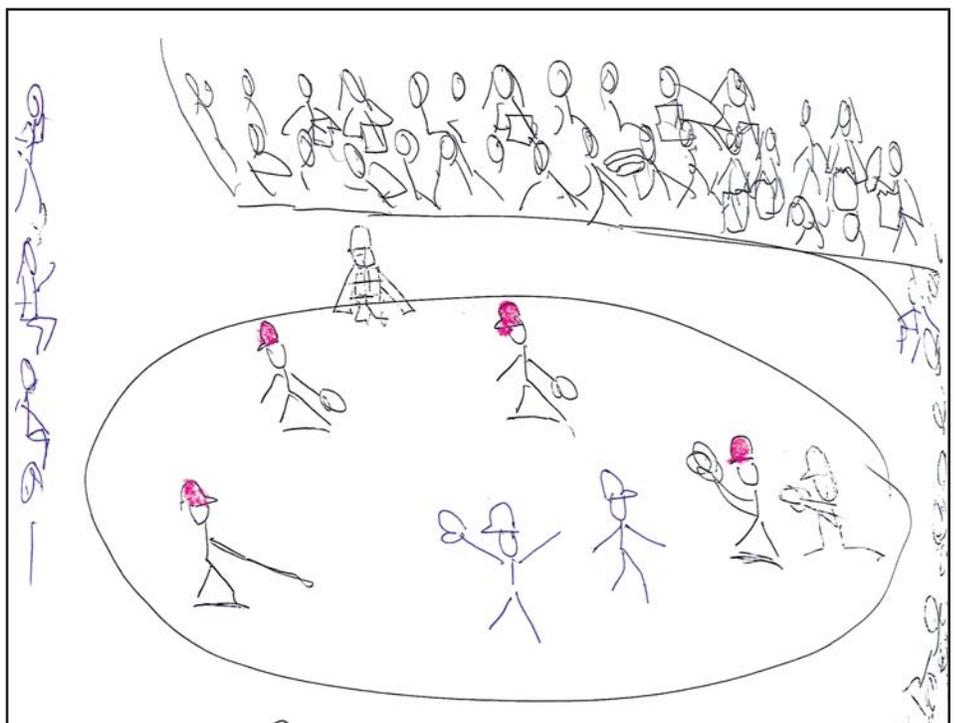


Consumer Sites & Programs
Appleridge Court, Charlemar,
Parkview, Ivanhoe, Carmel
Terrace, Cypress Way,
Ferncroft, North Bend,
Longford, Clovernook,
Woodsfield, Hansford, Lisbon,
Meyerhill, Brookforest,
Epworth Court, Galbraith,
Strifler, Montgomery, Cheviot
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Settings, and Supported Living

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the second-best newsletter,
because every other newsletter
claims to be the best.*

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Take Me Out to the Ballpark...



If It's Summer...It's Coney Island

One of the grand celebrations of summer for all of OVRS is the picnic and partying at Coney Island. On a warm sunny early August day, scores of OVRS—residents, staff, and a couple of family members shared a wonderful lunch, followed by either a dip in Sunlight pool, a seat on one of the rides, or just hanging out under a tree.



James Moody signals a successful dive.



Doug White shows his true colors.



Anne Acito and Kenya Dubose at Coney's picnic tent.



Kay Lewis and Joe Greer relax after a summer's lunch.



Carol Mehne and Priscilla Faux share a tender moment.

"Heart at Work" Honors Direct-Support Staff



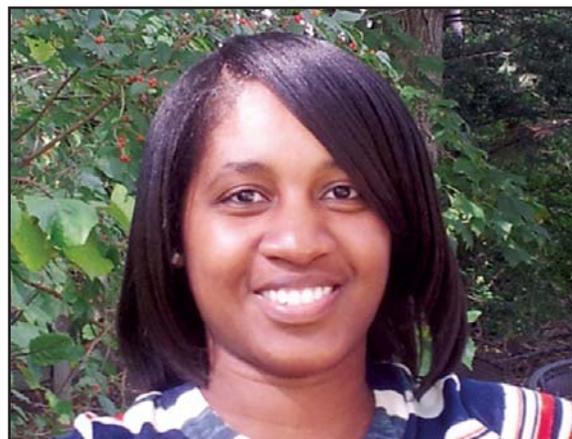
Eloise Moss and Marshea Harper



Michelle McPheeters



Geraldine Stevens



Lanise Burton

The heart of human service work is fundamentally the connection between one person who gives support to another person in need. The moments of those connections are often simple: assisting with someone who needs shoes tied, suggesting a more appropriate shirt for a dinner, giving aide in the bathroom. The effort at OVRs—like in all of our lives—is to marry the assists of basic needs with activities of fun. The support staff have to assess daily the necessary and the fun because they will engage individuals in both.

For the past decade, states across the country have marked the month of September as a time to celebrate the direct-support staff. It is they who largely make the day-to-day personal engagements in the world of developmental disabilities services. OVRs values, encourages, and acknowledges proudly the interpersonal connections between the individuals and the staff who support or introduce them to new and engaging experiences.

To honor the imagination as well as the dutiful activities, **Barb Sweeney** set up the "Heart at Work" idea. Each week, a home-site coordinator can nominate one of their team members for an inventive "adventure" or some other celebratory moment. Here are three awards:

Marshea Harper pictured above with **Eloise Moss**, who was unable to go a picnic with her OVRs friends because of work. Marshea invited Eloise to accompany her and her family to a local waterpark instead.

Michelle McPheeters, looking for something different, suggested a carriage ride in downtown Cincinnati for the women at Meyerhill.

Lanise Burton was nominated because of a letter sent by three Jewish hospital nurses:

"We would like to say 'thank you' in providing **Ms. Geraldine Stevens** with such a wonderful helper. **Lanise Burton** is an unbelievable, caring person. She shows such compassion in her care. She never leaves Geraldine's side while she is with us at Jewish Hospital. It is amazing to watch someone do their job with such compassion and care."

Yolanda Keeps Her Cool



Yolanda Hill

It was a harrowing moment; they always are. **Yolanda Hill** at Strifler performed the Heimlich maneuver and saved a life.

She had taken one of the women to get some lunch—a take-out hamburger from Burger King and have lunch at home.

The woman was hungry and tends to eat quickly. Shortly after the first bite,

she began to gag. Yolanda performed the maneuver five or six times but the lady continued to gag. Yolanda called 911, but after Yolanda put down the phone to help the woman, the phone went dead.

Fortunately, the 911 operator called back. She asked why Yolanda hung up on her. Yolanda told her she had to lay the phone down and she must have accidentally hit the “off” button. The 911 operator advised Yolanda to ease off if the woman spits up anything. Finally, the woman spit out a small piece, but continued to gag. Yolanda told the operator that the woman’s lips were still blue and she seemed to struggle to breathe.

Shortly after that, a larger piece popped out and within minutes the 911 team arrived.

For Yolonda’s heroic effort and act, **Karen Burr** awarded her a medal and chain—of one of her favorite bands—the Rolling Stones complete with the big red tongue. It’ll be a great necklace for church.

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Community Services Supporting Individuals
with Developmental Disabilities in the Home,
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