



The Valley Views

A Newsletter of the Ohio Valley Residential Services, Inc.

Coffee House Public Service Video Airs on Three Local TV Stations

For the thousands who have enjoyed the OVRs public service videos, you are invited to check out the latest on the OVRs web site at www.ovrs.org and click the "videos" button on the left side of the home page.

For those of you who suffer insomnia or who just like watching TV in the wee hours of the morning, we are happy to announce that three TV stations in Cincinnati—WXIX, WCPO, and WKRC are airing the new video this spring. "The Coffee House" features four individuals, who live in a four-unit apartment building in College Hill—**Barb, Joe, Tom, and Kay**—walking to the Coffee House, located on the corner of North Bend and Hamilton Avenue. **Sam Logulo** has again edited the clip, so that, even though it is only 30 seconds, it moves on a story line with a beginning, middle, and an end.

March 2012

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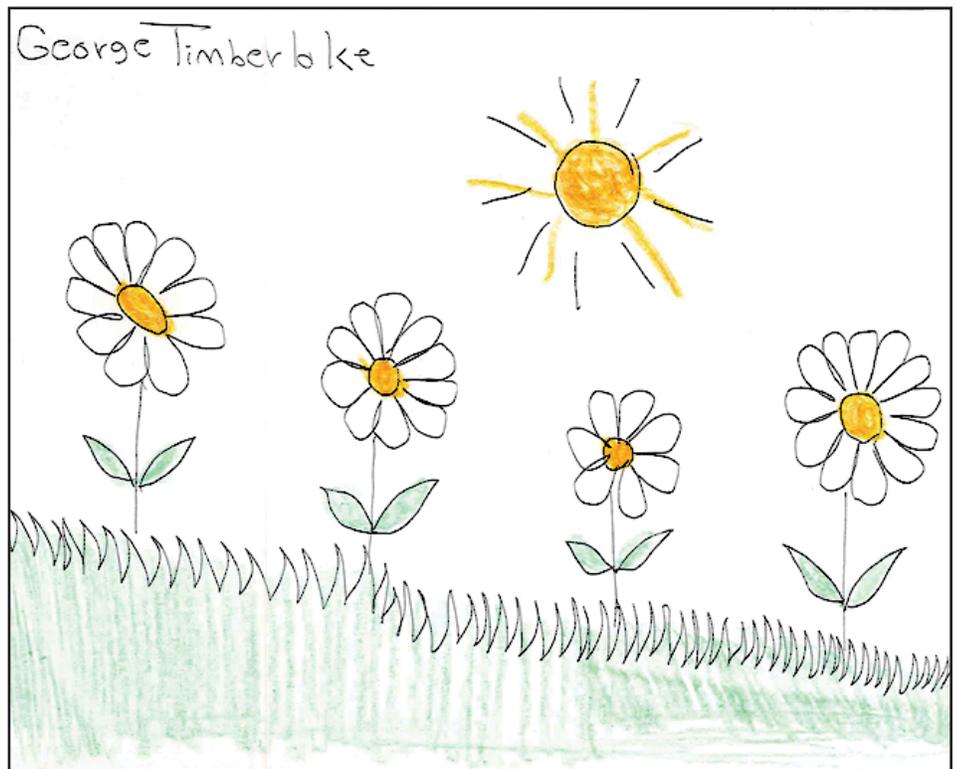
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the second-best newsletter,
because every other newsletter
claims to be the best.*

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The warm March weather gave George Timberlake spring fever.

Annual Mardi Gras Party

A lively Mardi Gras celebration took place this year at The Farm. Beads and bubbly along with dinner and dance made for a fun evening for many OVRS folks, friends, and family.



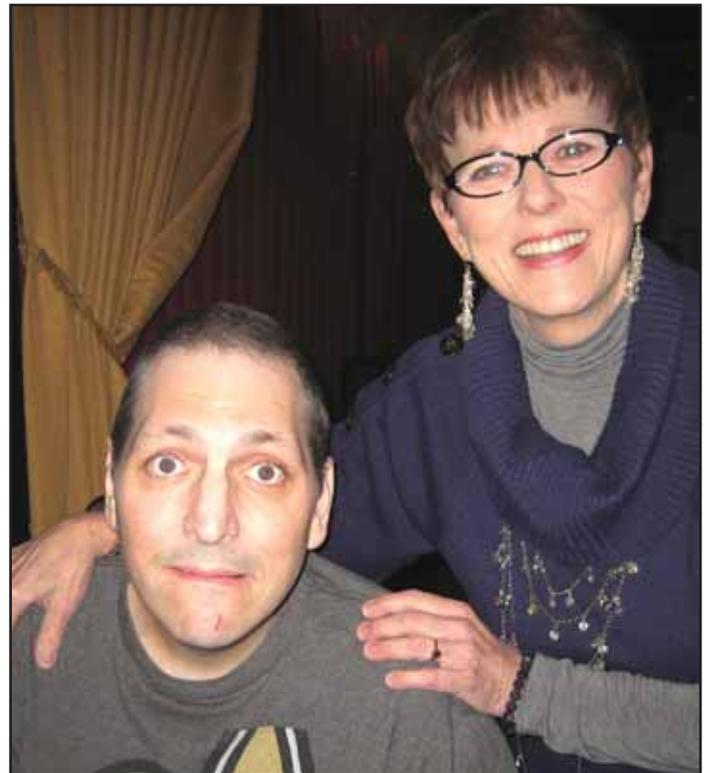
Jacki Campbell wearing Mardi Gras purple



Melissa Williams and Susan Rowe



Joe Greer and Carol Mehne look like an item at the party.



Kyle and his mother, Marianne Dallmamm

David Takes on Goliath



David and Patti

David Carl started smoking at the age of eleven. It was the day his father died in 1963. He was living at home. It was four o'clock in the morning, and he went to the bathroom and lit up. While David's father smoked, he did not want any of his children to take the habit up. David's father was in the U.S. Air Force and died in an auto accident at the age of 33.

It was during this same year that David was ordered to go to Orient State Institute, a large state institution which housed approximately 2,500 individuals diagnosed with mental retardation. After living at Orient for 11 years, he moved to Opportunity Village, the former name of Ohio Valley Residential Services, located in Lebanon, Ohio.

David continued his smoking both at Orient and at Opportunity Village. He quit smoking many times, but like many of his smoking colleagues, David soon re-started the habit.

Fifteen years ago, David married Patti, who herself was a big-time smoker. Their apartment carried a thick pall of smoke along with darkened walls and smoke-filled carpets and chairs.

In the past few years both David's and Patti's health seriously deteriorated leaving him needing a walker and bandaged legs, and Patti on oxygen. David became bitter, angry, and unpleasant to be around.

Last year, as David's health was in quick decline, he had an eventful meeting at his doctor's office shortly after getting out of a hospital and nursing home stay for serious blood blockages in his heart and legs. Dr. Timothy Freeman told David bluntly that his medical problems were directly connected to his smoking. His smoking was killing him, and that he would be dead very soon if he did not stop smoking. That stark conversation triggered an epiphany. He never smoked another cigarette. His walking has slowly improved. He now walks with the use of a cane only. As he walked more, he felt better, and most surprising of all, David's personality began to change, too. He smiles more, greets people, and engages in conversation with people.

Also, he forced Patti to quit smoking in their apartment and recently, she has quit, too. As his wife is living with emphysema and carting oxygen wherever she goes, David, who once ordered Patti to do everything, has become her helpmate—doing laundry, helping her shower, and cleaning their apartment. It has been an extraordinary turn for a man who now sees and appreciates the joy of life.

When Is Living in the Community Not So?

A fundamental question that has been at the center of support services for individuals with disabilities for 40 years is the concept of "community living." What is community living as it affects individuals with developmental disabilities? The question is important now because the large bureau in Washington, DC, which sets the policy and regulations for Medicaid for all states, The Center of Medicaid Services (CMS), has been looking at the word "community" for individuals who receive Medicaid.

Do individuals who live in group settings, but who rarely go anywhere, or when they do, they always travel in a group, are those individuals "living" in the community? If everyday a person goes to a "workshop" where only other individuals with disabilities "work," is that viable living, or working, in the community? What is the relationship between individuals living and working in groups to individual participation in whatever venue of community life? What is the difference between living in the community and individually participating in the community?

Interestingly, Governor Kasich, in conjunction with the Department of Developmental Disabilities and other state agencies, is including in his mid-year budget correction a law that expresses "employment first" for those with disabilities. So often a new person, an adult, comes to a county system for services, and the first option for employment is to attend a county workshop or an Adult Day Service, both of which are populated solely with individuals with disabilities. Those settings are socially very comfortable. If they are the first places visited and where an individual is placed, employment may never come.

A person-centered focus presses for a very different outcome.

A Gesture of Kindness...



Yolanda Hill, a home coordinator at the Strifler home made a quite lovely gesture. On Valentine's Day, Yolanda arranged for two of the ladies at the home to visit a family member. When Yolanda and Betty Anglin arrived at Betty's sister-in-law's (adjacent photo), Betty surprised Rosemary with a fragrant Valentine bouquet. Mary Beck was able to have the same experience with her mother at the nursing home where she lives. Shirley Watson's family lives out of town, and they too were treated to a touching surprise when their spring flowers arrived.

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

For information about employment or housing availability, visit www.ovrs.org



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