

Foundation FOCUS

SPRING 2011



Christmas Party

It was another fantastic night to be part of the HELP Family on December 12th! The dance floor was crowded from the time the music started until late into the night as HELP clients, staff, and friends enjoyed celebrating the holiday together as we have for so many years now. The downtown DoubleTree Hotel put together a fine dinner that went perfectly with the laughter, friendship and holiday cheer!

THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- 3 MARCH IS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH
GOLF SAVE THE DATE
- 4 SUMMER PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP WITH CMSD
CLIENT SPOTLIGHT
- 5 HELP DAY SUPPORT ADDS VOCATIONAL PROGRAM
IN MEMORIAM
- 6-7 DONOR LIST
- 8 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



To ensure that children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the homes, environments and opportunities to be valued members of the community.

HELP
FOUNDATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S *Report*



Daniel J. Rice
Executive Director

THANK YOU! Gratitude is the overwhelming sentiment I feel coming into 2011. Thank you, for supporting the adults and children we serve, thank you for your belief in our mission, and thank you for making 2010 a fantastic year for HELP!

Last year's success has set the stage for an exciting year of continued growth and new opportunities for our clients. The amazing HELP Us Glow Gala in celebration of our 45th Anniversary was a grand party that has been given a "Black Tie Award" from Currents Magazine as one of the 13 best charity events of 2010! What a way to put a cherry on top of a great year!

In 2011 we are set to double the number of participants at the HELP Adult Day Support Program in Euclid and will also be adding an innovative Adult Vocational Habilitation Program in the coming months. Our vocational program will provide a unique opportunity for Day Support participants to mix vocational training with day support activities at the same location. As employees in this supported vocational program clients will be earning their own money while learning and reinforcing critical workplace skills. The flexibility to participate in both Day Support and Vocational Programs allows them to create a schedule to meet their own needs and to adjust that schedule as those needs change.

These expanding services in Euclid have been supported and encouraged by Mayor Bill Cervenik and his staff and embraced by Euclid City Council for the economic and community development benefits we are creating. HELP's partnerships like this with local and County governments and school districts are key to our continued success. Working closely with County Boards of Developmental Disabilities in Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, and Summit counties has been the core of our services for many years. The Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities remains a critical partner with us in providing daily services for our consumers, and is an essential part of our Summer Program. This summer we are very pleased to announce a newly expanded partnership with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) which will be hosting our program at Riverside and Jamison elementary schools. This partnership represents a natural synergy between HELP and CMSD whose students represent the majority of our Summer Program participants. Cooperation among County, school districts, and nonprofits like HELP are a key to our continued success in serving some of the neediest individuals in our community.

2011 promises to be an exciting year for HELP! Take a moment to visit our newly redesigned website (www.helpfoundationinc.org), mark your calendar for our HELP Golf Outing on September 12th, and tell your friends about the great work we do and the wonderful people we are so privileged to serve!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel J. Rice
Executive Director

MARCH IS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

Statewide, and across the nation, organizations devoted to serving individuals with developmental disabilities are planning special events in March to raise public awareness of the many abilities people have, regardless of disability. "Together" encourages people to understand that when people with disabilities are welcomed into local neighborhoods, workplaces, houses of worship, and schools everyone wins.

together

During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, we encourage people to learn more about the people in this community who have developmental disabilities and to recognize that all of us have talents and abilities that we can offer to make this a better place to live. Together we can accomplish more!

4 Player Scramble

12:00 pm Shotgun Start

\$450 early-bird foursome
(if received prior to
July 15)

Includes golf, cart, lunch,
dinner, practice range,
locker room & bag
service

Raffle Prizes &
Silent Auction

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

HELP FOUNDATION GOLF OUTING

VISIT WWW.HELFFOUNDATIONINC.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION



50 Trails End,
Aurora, Ohio 44202

SUMMER PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP WITH CMSD

The HELP Summer Program is preparing for its 39th year serving children and young adults in Cuyahoga County with a program dedicated to helping them hold on to the education and personal progress made during the school year. This valuable program has grown from a dozen children at the original HELP Home to now serve 300 students each summer at an east and west side location. For the first time HELP will be conducting the 2011 session at two of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's beautiful new elementary schools! Strongly supported by the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities for many years this new collaboration with CMSD represents a unique public-private partnership in providing substantive summer programming for the children who have developmental disabilities in our community.



CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

Marlette has been living at HELP Six Chimneys for the past 5 years and is an active and enthusiastic participant in the HELP Adult Day Program. Marlette was actually one of the program's first participants starting from its very first day. These days she attends the Day Program three days a week, and works as Receptionist in the HELP Administrative office on Wednesday and Friday. She says she really enjoys coming to work because "I can walk to my job, and I like earning money doing things for the people in the office." Marlette assists office staff by answering the phone, and performing clerical and administrative support work.



opera she's been following since she was a little girl. As a confident, independent woman Marlette really likes taking the bus to Tower City to have lunch or dinner, enjoy the sights and see the people.

While at the Day Program Marlette looks forward to

lunch trips to local restaurants, going bowling and playing Connect Four with her group of friends. She enjoys going to the movies, but as she often works Wednesdays doesn't get to make it to Movie Day with the Day Program very often. She'd like everyone to know that working at the office is her favorite part of the week, she feels good helping people, and that she always looks forward to the HELP Christmas Party in December!

HELP DAY SUPPORT ADDS VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

The popular and successful HELP Day Support Program continues to grow to serve more individuals with a daytime program of therapeutic community based social and cultural activities. With our late 2010 purchase of the Shore Center building in Euclid which houses the program we have renovated the remaining space to house the expanded program. With this new space we are better able to serve consumers with widely different needs and have also begun a pilot-project for vocational habilitation services. This new project will allow participants in the Day Program to earn money while learning and reinforcing workplace skills and behaviors.

The experience of working and the skills needed to conduct oneself appropriately on the job are critical in assisting our clients in developing greater independence and the confidence to take on new challenges. If you are interested in learning more about the HELP Day Program and Vocational Program please call Tami Honkala at 216-432-4810 x304.



In Memoriam



Michael Baran

Michael Baran a long-time HELP resident passed away late last year. Michael was an engaging and warm man who was a kind and caring friend to his housemates at our South Woodland home and enjoyed participating in the HELP Day Support Program. His life was celebrated at an emotional memorial service attended by staff and residents who knew him and shared the joy he had brought to their lives.

Michael exemplifies the mission of HELP as envisioned by our founders. As one of our oldest residents Michael lived through the changes and dramatic improvements in care and understanding for people with developmental disabilities. It is a testament to his strength of character and love of life that he remained a caring, gentle person concerned with the feelings of others. While his passing saddens us it is a reminder to all of us that our work must honor the wishes of our founders to continue improving the quality of life and care for the people we serve.

HOW HELP HELPS!

The HELP mission is “To ensure children and adults with developmental disabilities have the **homes, environments,** and **opportunities** to be valued members of their community.” That’s an accurate statement, but doesn’t really tell you what we actually do for the people we are fortunate to serve. To help you know more about what all this means we offer the following brief explanations.

HOMES & APARTMENTS:

HELP residents live in group homes, shared apartments, or their own individual apartments. Group homes typically have four residents who share a house with HELP staff members present whenever the residents are home. Shared apartments usually have two or three roommates, but are otherwise similar to group homes. Staff will be on hand overnight, in the morning, evening, and weekends to assist residents with cooking, cleaning, personal care, finances, appointments, transportation, and social activities. During

the week our residents are required to have daytime activities to participate in; some go to jobs in the community, others to supported workshops, or day programming.

Residents of our individual apartments, who typically have better independent living skills and need less staff assistance, are not required to have daily activities to attend. For most this is not a concern as they are eager and willing to work, attend supported workshops, or participate in daytime programming. For others it falls to our staff to encourage and motivate them to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle. This is all part of the art and science of being a direct-care worker, knowing the person you’re working with, and how best to engage and relate to them to help them lead their best lives.

ENVIRONMENTS:

HELP staff work with residents to create warm and inviting settings in our homes and apartments, creating a true home for them to thrive in and call their own. By encouraging residents to be creative and choose how they’d

like to decorate their space, share their preference for meals and entertainment they have a strong sense of ownership and belonging to a family-style unit. This philosophy carries over into our Adult Day Program where we have created a welcoming space that encourages participation and supports each clients’ need for companionship, interaction, and social experiences. Feeling comfortable, safe, and welcome is critical to helping our clients maintain and grow their developmental skills and behaviors.

OPPORTUNITIES:

The people we serve want to have fun, help others, enjoy the natural world, and learn new things. With our programs and staff we try to provide opportunities for experiences that encourage individual growth and allow our clients to expand their horizons. From weekly group shopping trips, a night at the movies, or bowling, to sporting events, fairs, parks and concerts our staff keep life interesting and engaging for HELP clients.



Living, working, and playing just like everyone else HELP residents and clients are assisted by our dedicated and caring staff in living their best lives, in the way they choose!

Donations SEPTEMBER 2010 – FEBRUARY 2011

Monetary Donations

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We apologize for any omission or error, please contact Darlene Willis with corrections a 216-432-4810.



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Save the Date HELP Annual Meeting

June 2nd 4:30 pm,
HELP Adult Day Support Program
22741 Shore Center Drive
Euclid, OH 44123



HELP GOLF OUTING

SEPTEMBER 12TH
AURORA COUNTRY CLUB

(See inside & our website for more information!)

NEW WEBSITE

We are proud to announce our newly redesigned website! www.helpfoundationinc.org is new and improved, stop over and see what we've done, sign up to receive this newsletter via e-mail, and learn more about the programs we offer and people we serve!

