



dFs News

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www.diversifiedfamily.org

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Winter 11/1/2009

dFs 4th Annual Christmas Craft Show

At dFs office
5454 East State
Street
Hermitage, PA 16148



Pancake Breakfast
8am to 10am
Craft Show
10am to 4pm

Saturday, November 21st
Admission
8am to 10am

Ages:
12 & up: \$5
11 to 2: \$3
2 & under: Free
Free Pancake Breakfast Included
with admission until 10am.

Admission
10am – 4pm

Ages:
12 & up: \$2
11 & under: Free

For more information or to register
as a vendor please call
Mary James at
(724) 346-2123 ext 5533
Or email mjames@diversifiedfamily.org

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The Drop-In Center

Schedule of Events

November

- ❖ 11th – Craft **6pm – 8pm**
 - Make a gift to take to a friend or relative during the holiday season.
(RSVP is required to attend this event. Please RSVP by 11/6)

- ❖ 23rd – Treat **6pm – 8pm**
 - Take your pick of an apple or a popcorn ball and decorate it with chocolate, caramel, and candy.
(RSVP with choice of apple or popcorn ball is required to attend this event. Please RSVP by 11/19)



December

- ❖ 4th – Holiday Dance **6pm – 8pm**
 - Celebrate the season to the tunes of DJ Joe.

- ❖ 16th – Craft **6pm – 8pm**
 - We're making Christmas ornaments.
(RSVP is required to attend this event. Please RSVP by 12/14)

January

- ❖ 5th – Science Project **6pm – 8pm**
 - We are going to create hanging crystals in jars.
(RSVP is required to attend this event. Please RSVP by 12/31)

- ❖ 14th – Line Dancing **6pm – 8pm**
 - Master the moves to your favorite line dance.

- ❖ 26th – Craft **6pm – 8pm**
 - We're making bird feeders to hang outside during the winter months.
(RSVP is required to attend this event. Please RSVP by 1/22)

Over the last year
the Drop-In Center provided
72 participants with 1,745 hours of FREE FUN!
Come and join in on all the fun!



All Drop In Center Activities are FREE unless otherwise noted. To RSVP or Volunteer please call:
Mary James at (724) 346-2123

Celebrity Doodle Auction Benefits Drop-In Center

By: Andrea Davidson, QIC

The third Celebrity Doodles Auction, held October 6th at the Hickory V.F.W., was an evening filled with entertainment and excitement. Over 100 guests enjoyed delicious food during the cocktail hour while previewing artwork and exclusive memorabilia from over 40 VIP celebrities. Following the preview hour, guests were seated for the live auction.



Volunteer staff prepare to greet guests with "star" auction paddles and programs.

Albert Boland, Master of Ceremonies, did an outstanding job as auctioneer keeping the evening enjoyable. Anticipation for favorite items kept bids increasing throughout the evening. Items from sports stars garnered the top bids, including a 1996

signed Steelers team football and footballs signed by Joe Paterno and Jim Tressel. Other sports stars whose items raised the bidding were Jerome Bettis, Mario Lemieux, Lynn Swann, and Arnold Palmer. Original drawings from Jay Leno, Donald Trump, Tony Hawk, Robert David Hall, Christopher Meloni and Cher also sold at high marks. All guests who walked away with a purchase were excited about owning an exclusive item and also contributing to **df**s.

This year's net profit from the event was over \$9,000.00, all of which will be used to provide activities for the Drop-In Center at **df**s. More information about the Drop-In Center can be found in this newsletter.



Thank you to all board members, **df**s staff, advertisers, and supporters of the auction, all of whom helped to make the event a success!

Master of Ceremonies Al Boland with Steelers signed football. This item was the top selling item at the auction, selling for \$610!

4TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW

Submitted by Mary James

The holiday season will soon be upon us, and CHAPS is excited to announce the date for its fourth annual Christmas Craft Show. This year brings some big changes. Visitors to the craft show will still be able to browse the wares of local vendors and try their luck at winning fabulous prizes from the Chinese auction. This year, however, early birds will be treated to a free pancake breakfast with the purchase of an admission ticket. Vendors will also see a drop in the registration price, and all vendors will be featured in the front room.

This time of year evokes an excitement in children and adults alike. Especially in our area, we look forward to the autumn and winter months and all the activities they bring. Craft shows and fairs are a cherished part of our local culture, and CHAPS is delighted to be a part of such a grand tradition. The individuals who work at CHAPS are especially eager to share their wares with their community. This event is looked forward to throughout the year. It's our pleasure to invite you to attend our fourth annual Christmas craft show this November 21st. We look forward to seeing you there.





Please welcome our New Employees

"You're Hired"

Direct Care Professionals

Betty Adams
John Anderson
Jeremy Barger
Edith Bitzer
Jacqueline Bruce
Timothy Culbertson
Sharon Durbin
Heidi Haney

Sonja Heard
Danielle Johnson
Andrew Lateer
Vicki Lubinski
Mary Manning
Steven Sheirer
James Sylvester

Residential Program Supervisor

James Douglass
Sue Snyder

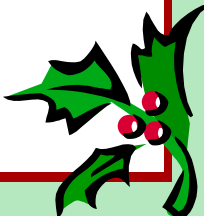
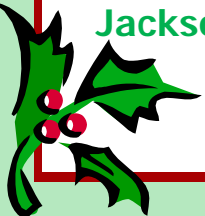
Accountant

Shereen Esmail



Holiday Dinner

Don't forget about the Holiday Dinner on December 12th from 5p-9p at the Hermitage VFW. Festivities will begin promptly at 5:00 pm with a buffet dinner. There will be a DJ for your entertainment. All reservations must be received by December 4th. Again this year, all reservations received by November 20, 2009, will be entered into a drawing. Ten names will be drawn to attend the Holiday Dinner for free. Tickets are \$10.00 per person. Clients and children under 12 are \$7.00. Children under 5 are free. Please include payment with reservation. Questions may be addressed to Leslie Jackson at 346-2123, ext. 5523.





GIFT DRIVE

By Stacey Llewellyn

Since we had such a wonderful response, we will be holding another Secret Santa Gift Drive for some of our clients who are in financial situations which will not allow for a joyous Christmas. We will be placing informational stars at the receptionist desk with a discrete description of an individual in need. Your kind donation of a gift valued at approximately \$20 will be greatly appreciated.

The gifts will be given anonymously to the individuals; however, as a donor you will be recognized by name in the next newsletter as a contributor.



Please see Elaine for your star. All gifts must be **unwrapped** and submitted at the office by **noon on December 18, 2009.**

THE SAFETY CORNER

Contributed By: Leslie Jackson
Administrative Officer
Safety Committee Chairperson

Along with doing quality work, safety on the job is a top priority. That is why we hold safety meetings. Whether you are a new or seasoned employee, safety meetings provide a quick and easy way to communicate how you can do your job more safely.

Safety meetings also allow employees an opportunity to relay safety and health concerns or improvement ideas. Often, some of the best safety ideas come from employees.

Our safety committee meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month. Each agency site has a representative who is to bring any safety concerns regarding their site to the meeting.

Your safety committee is comprised of the following members and their representative sites:

Leslie Jackson	Safety Chairperson
Nancy Tusinac	Program Director
Stacey Cannon	Medical Issues
Mike Boldish	Maintenance
Diane Anthony	Clarksville CLA
Ginny Greer	Richmond CLA
Michele Groover	RPS
Cathy Proctor	Assistant Program Director
Nicole Lawrence	Shenango CLA
Kim Ford	Fairmont CLA
Jennifer Ketcham	Victoria CLA
Peggy Lee	Oil City CLA
Michelle Smith	Buhl Court CLA
Karen Sluder	Hubbard CLA
Eileen Kidd	Grant Street
Holly Jones	Oakland CLA

If you have any safety concerns, please make your representative aware of them.

Oh! The Places We Go!

Jamestown Fair By Russell Swauger

There were pretty decent exhibits in the school gym like quilts, sewn clothing by kids and garden vegetables. The best thing is that fair is free to go into. The only things you pay for are food, rides and raffles for baby beef and guns. The Lion's Club has good French Fries and good pies to eat. It is a fun time! I think other clients would like the fair.



The Zoo by Marilyn Lapp

I really enjoyed the zoo. I enjoyed seeing the turtles. They were a hundred years old. I liked seeing the zebras and the monkeys. The elephants were amazing. I like the anteaters and rattlesnakes, I like the zoo so much I bought postcards and gave them to my friends. I would definitely recommend others to go to the zoo. I had so much fun!

The StoneBoro Fair By April Barr

I like the rides at the Stoneboro Fair. I also enjoyed the rodeos & bull riding. The food is always best. I really enjoyed seeing the farm animals, pigs, cows, horses, sheep, etc. I look forward to going every year, because every year seems like a new experience.

By: The Client Advisory Committee



Jamestown Beach, by Marilyn Lapp

I really enjoyed swimming at the beach. I had fun playing with my beach ball and sponge balls in the water. I liked feeling the sand between my toes in my sandals. I liked having a picnic when it was lunch time. I would definitely recommend other people to go see. It's free too!

*Cook's Forest
By Russell Swauger*

In May, I visited Cook's Forest and I went across a swinging rope bridge. We had a picnic by the river and played miniature golf. We also rode the Go-karts, but they wouldn't let us go very fast.

I thought it was a pretty decent and nice trip. I think others would like it.



*Hartford Apple Fest
By Robert Mott*

There were all types of food: sausage sandwiches, apple pie, apple dumplings and cider. The building next to the fair had crafts. There were a lot of people there. Kids were having burlap sack races. I enjoyed listening to all the different bands playing their music. I didn't care much for all the bees trying to get into my food. I give the Hartford Apple Festival a Big Thumbs UP!

Linesville, by April Barr

I loved Linesville. I fed the fish, but my favorite thing to do out there, is to throw the bread up in the air and watch the seagulls catch the bread while they're flying. That was the most fun outing I did this summer. I will love to do it again.

Welcome New Castle Group Home!



By Lorraine Livosky
Assistant Program Director

dFs would like to welcome Sue, Andrew, Jeremy, James, Sharon, John, Vicki, Heidi, Randy and Scott.

dFs opened its newest group home in New Castle on October 13th. The home has been remodeled to meet the needs of the individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The individuals moved into their new home, which was a smooth transition, thanks to the teamwork that **dFs** continues to provide.

Empty Capri Sun pouches needed!
Please bring all empty, undamaged pouches to dFs
and receive a coupon toward any Capri Sun
product made at CHAPS.

"Star" of the Month

Contributed by: Stacey Llewellyn, Personnel Assistant

★ Peggy Lee, Residential Program Supervisor was selected as September's "Star of the Month."

★ The "Star of the Month" for October was Lenora Flenoury, RPW.

★ Andrea Davidson, Board Secretary is November's "Star of the Month." For her terrific job with the "Doodles Auction".

A certificate was placed in the office waiting area in honor of each "star." Each "star" receives a token of appreciation. In addition, each "star's" name was added to the "Star of the Month" plaque that is located on the "dFs Wall of Fame."

Congratulations to all recipients of this award!
Keep up the good work!

How to nominate a "Star"

Have you ever thought "Wow, that person is doing a great job and really makes a difference?" That's the perfect opportunity to nominate someone to be a dFs Star of the Month.

Stars of the Month can be employees, family living providers, foster parents, members of the Board of Directors or other volunteers.

Nomination forms can be found in the mail room in the reception area. When completing the form, you should include specific reasons as to why you are nominating the person. The nominee should be someone who "goes above and beyond" their normal duties. All nominations are reviewed and awarded monthly by the Executive Team. Staff are eligible to be honored once every three years.

So the next time you see someone "going the extra mile," take some time to complete a nomination form so that person gets a chance at being recognized as a dFs Star.

Staff Earn Surprise Awards

Contributed by: Andrea Davidson, Quality Improvement Coordinator

Congratulations to the staff who were surprised in June, July and August from the Staff Retention Committee!

June, 2009

Sue Tomski, Direct Care Professional at C.S. Group Home was recognized for earning 100% compliance from the State Licensing Inspections.

July, 2009

The Staff at Richmond CLA were recognized for the best use of their digital camera. Their photos represented staff and clients participating in various activities.



August, 2009

The staff of both the Clarksville and Hubbard Group Homes received the GOOD HOUSEKEEPING AWARD for scoring 100% on the Infectious Control Inspection for that month.



Congratulations on a Job Well Done from the

From the Suggestion Box



Submitted by Marilyn Klemens, Director

Michelle Groover - for her suggestion to have a Doodle Ticket Sales competition.

Mary James - for her suggestion to develop a facebook page for dFs.

Peggy Lee - for her suggestion to provide all group homes with plastic mail pouches.

Jennifer Minett - for her suggestion to add "Investigator" to the appropriate staff ID badges.

Christine Sheirer - for her suggestion to create a client profile column in the newsletter. This will become part of the Consumer Corner feature.

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

ON OCTOBER 13, 2009, DIVERSIFIED FAMILY SERVICES WENT "PASSIONATELY PINK FOR THE CURE" AND DONATED \$158.00 TO THE SUSAN G KOMEN, BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION. OFFICE STAFF DONATED \$5.00 TO WEAR PINK ALONG WITH JEANS ON THE 13TH. THERE WAS ALSO A BASKET OF PINK GOODIES AND A PINK BREAST CANCER SNUGGIE GIVEN AWAY...WINNER OF THE BASKET WAS TIFFANY JOHNSON AND THE WINNER OF THE SNUGGIE WAS KAREN MAJOCKA. CONGRATS!

If you would like to receive your next newsletter via e-mail,
Please contact Chris Maurice at
(724) 346-2123 ext. 5513 or cmaurice@diversifiedfamily.org

THE PILL BOX

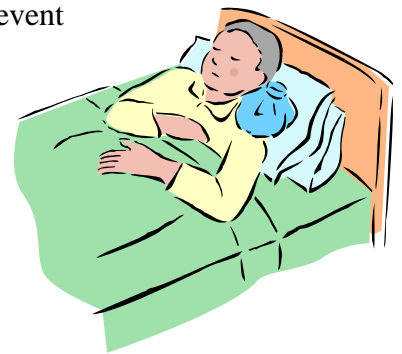
Contributed by: Stacey Cannon
Health Service Coordinator



With all the information coming in to us from our TV's, radios, newspapers and internet, there is some very useful information at www.H1N1inpa.com. Some useful information that I would like to pass on from the website is the following:

Caring For the Sick Person in Your Home

- Wash hands with soap and water — or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer — after you touch the person, used tissues, utensils or their bed linens.
- Do your best to avoid face-to-face (less than 3 feet away) contact.
- Hold young children with their chins on your shoulder to avoid coughs in your face.
- Talk with your healthcare provider about your taking antiviral medication to prevent infection.
- If you are pregnant or in a group considered [most vulnerable to complications](#) from H1N1, try to avoid being the primary caregiver in the home if at all possible.
- If possible, sick persons should be kept in a room apart from other family members and use a separate bathroom. This bathroom should be cleaned daily with household disinfectant (see below).



Cleaning Methods When a Sick Person Is in Your Home

According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, several germicides, including chlorine, hydrogen peroxide, soap, iodine-based antiseptics and alcohol are effective against human influenza viruses.



- Clean bedside tables, bathrooms, doorknobs, kitchen counters and children's toys daily with a household disinfectant.
- Linens, utensils and dishes used by the sick person do not need to be washed separately, but should not be shared prior to cleaning.
- Avoid hugging bed linens before laundering to prevent becoming contaminated, and tumble dry on the hot setting. Wash hands immediately after handling dirty laundry.

Using Facemasks and Respirators

Surgical masks (available at pharmacies, building supply and hardware stores) can help decrease the spread of H1N1 in certain situations. PADOH suggests considering them for home use only in specific situations, including:

- Uninfected people who are at high-risk for complications from H1N1 who must come in close contact with an infected person.
- Caregivers helping a sick person with nebulizer or inhaler respiratory treatments.
- Used facemasks should be immediately placed in the trash after use and not saved for re-use. Wash hands after use.

Diversified Family Services
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P.O. Box 1027
Hermitage, PA 16148
www.diversifiedfamily.org
"Helping Families Since 1985"

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