



Scoops

The Newsletter of New England Village, Inc.

Summer 2006

Investing in our Future

By Dolores Rezendes

**“We are always looking ahead,
always looking towards
the future.”**

*- Dr. Bryan Efron, Executive Director
of New England Village*

Perhaps nothing embodies Dr. Efron’s statement more than the next two additions to our campus community – the Watson Home and the new Smith Home. With the needs of our aging population always top-of-mind and 34 years of residential program experience behind us, the new dwellings allow the Village to address some immediate and future needs without compromising the very things that set us apart from other residential program providers.

Many may not be aware that the original Village homes were designed as 8-bed units with 60% of our residents sharing a bedroom. Two important lessons were learned from this early model: 1) individuals are entitled to their own space, and 2) smaller bed homes are more equitable for many individuals who live at New England Village. As a result, today

each resident has his/her own room and the NEV board of directors and management are committed to downsizing existing homes whenever feasible. The generosity of two of our families is helping us deliver on this promise.

Margaret Watson has lived at New England Village since 1975. Her family has generously supported a number of Village initiatives with some very significant gifts over the years, including the Jane and Stuart Watson Endowment for Staff Excellence. In December of 2004, Jane Watson, with the support of her children - Sarah DeCew, Steve Watson and Beth Noujaim, made a \$1,000,000 gift to New England Village for the building of a new spacious and fully accessible home. Construction began in the winter of 2005 with an anticipated occupancy date of fall 2006. Coastal Restoration of Plymouth, Massachusetts is the contractor.

The Watson Home, whose name was formally approved by the board of directors in June, is actually two 3-bed units. Its special features include lighting designed for the visually impaired, thresholds at a minimal level, large showers for those who need assistance and spacious rooms that can accommodate durable medial equipment, such as wheelchairs and walkers. It also has state-of-the-art radiant heating.

Residential Manager Ginger



Margaret Watson

Sullivan will be responsible for overseeing the supervision of this new

residence. Staffing plans include a House Manager, live-in Residential Coordinator and an asleep overnight position. The staffing ratio will be 1:3 most of the time, with additional staff hours added to some shifts.

So, who exactly will be taking up residence in this new home; remember that earlier statement about downsizing existing homes whenever possible? Well, House 1 is about to get leaner as three of its current residents - Margaret Watson, Sue Ray and Dan Kneafsey, prepare to move into the new house, thus reducing House 1 from an 8-bed unit to a 5-bed home. Rick Pittman, Director of Residential and Professional Services is currently working with families and staff to determine the best fit for the additional three beds.

Thanks to a very generous gift from the Reynolds Rich Smith Trust, one of our original homes (the 8-bed Smith House), is about to be replaced with a brand new 10-bedroom duplex

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The Executive Director's Perspective



Bryan Efron, Ph.D.
Executive Director

The size of our Village campus is an important issue to many of us. Will growth in the number of homes – and residents – erode our commitment

to fostering a highly personalized, supportive, and close-knit campus community?

Over the past decade we have added several new homes and as you'll read in this issue of Scoops, a new duplex is nearing completion and another duplex is in the planning stages. Adding new homes to the Village's campus has been driven largely by internal needs and a strategic planning process intended to maintain the long-term appeal and fiscal viability of our Village concept. In the mid-90's, when the Fuller and LaChance homes were added, there was a significant push to reduce the size of one of our original larger homes, as a number of existing and prospective Village residents had needs that were best met in a smaller environment. More recently, the

addition of our new 3-bed duplex-style house was driven by these same requirements (i.e. further downsizing), as well as the need to have more fully accessible living quarters, thus enhancing the quality of life of many Village residents in the coming years. The New Smith Home, slated for construction in 2007, is a direct result of many years of planning on how to best meet the

“ Often overlooked... the contributions our new residents have made to the diversity and vibrancy of our community and the many new friendships that have evolved. ”

needs of the Village's aging residents – a critically important issue in light of the age demographics of our residential community. An extremely generous gift will now make it possible for us to carry out our plans.

In conjunction with the gradual increase in the number of Village homes and new residents, we have been able to offer a broader and more tailored range of both housing and day program options; our modest growth

has also enabled us to add certain management staff, which improves our ability to function in a more complex, competitive and increasingly demanding human services environment. Often overlooked, but of considerable importance to the overall wellbeing and satisfaction of our Village residents, are the contributions our newer residents have made to the diversity and vibrancy of our community and the many new friendships that have evolved.

I believe neither New England Village's governance nor the Village's management is interested in seeing the Village grow larger. Each decision to add a new home was carefully analyzed and thoroughly discussed. In all cases, a strong consensus emerged that adding the new home was in the best interest of the Village and would not jeopardize what we all recognize is most important for us to preserve – the ability to meet the unique needs of each Village resident.

Sincere thanks go out to retiring board members Aaron Siegal and Robert Alkon for their years of service to the Village. A warm welcome is extended to Esta-Jean Cahn and James Zuckernik who joined the NEV board in June.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Art Commission



Sean Early

By Sarah Bates Washburn

On June 19, 2006, the individuals at New England Village Day Services began their latest corporate commission, which came from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. It is their second commission from this corporation. I went to meet with the art dealer representing BCBS to discuss the details of the project with her. The

commission includes four large scale abstract paintings to be produced by the individuals who participate in the Craft Creations program. After the works are completed they will be framed by Stanhope Framers of Boston and then hung together as a diptych in the BCBS building in Quincy, Massachusetts. The compensation for these paintings is considerable. Blue Cross also will be placing a plaque next to the paintings listing all of the participating artist's names.

At this point, the individuals' work is comparable to that of any professional abstract artist, as are their rates per square foot. They have truly found a niche. Out of the four works, two are vertical panels measuring 24 inches x 48 inches. Those panels incorporate the drip method, which has been long practiced by abstractionists dating back to Jackson Pollock, who brought this technique to the forefront. These pieces combined many vibrant colors and were applied in order through a repetitive process we coined as "the Flip-N-Drip." Eleven artists worked on this piece which is named

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Staff and Resident News

Congratulations go out to the following staff and residents on their outstanding achievements:

■ Rick Pittman, Dir. of Residential & Professional Services

Awarded a *Master of Science* degree from the University of Massachusetts on June 2, 2006.

■ Ann-Louise Vital, Speech Therapist

Recipient of the Suzanne K. Rich Award, an honor bestowed by the Department of Special Education at Simmons College to a graduate student who has leveraged technology solutions that facilitate the potential for all learners.

■ Laurie McNeil, Accounts Payable Coordinator

Selected as a member of Beta Xi, the Stonehill College chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for Continuing Education. Laurie's GPA is in the upper 10% of her class.

■ Katy Joly, Day Services Office Manager

On July 24th, Katy was promoted from Administrative Assistant to Day Services Office Manager.

■ Chip Fitts, Red Cape Resident

Chip attended a seminar in Taunton on July 24th entitled "The Outstanding Receptionist." It was a great opportunity for him to build upon the skills that he has developed working in NEV-Hanson's front office for the past few years.

■ Rita Limauro, Smith House Resident

Received two volunteer awards. The State House recognized Rita's outstanding volunteer efforts with a certificate signed by State Representative



Thomas J. O'Brien. Also, Silver

Lake Commons, an assisted living and skilled care center in Kingston, name Rita their "Volunteer of the Year."



June 21st was significant for two reasons: it was the first day of summer and it was the first day Phil Soucar went swimming since he was a child. Phil had a bad pool experience when he was younger and wouldn't even wear shorts because they reminded him of that day long ago. Well all that changed on that Wednesday in June when Phil went swimming in the SWC pool. He's been at every swim session since and has even added shorts to his wardrobe. Way to go Phil!

Staff Appreciation Committee

The Staff Appreciation Committee sponsored a staff luncheon in Pembroke on July 12th and a staff breakfast in Hanson on August 1st. All employees of NEV were invited to attend. Guests were treated to a complimentary lunch/breakfast with all the trimmings and some great raffle prizes (including some potted candy plants made by Lynn Johnson). Both events were very well attended.

The next Staff Appreciation event takes place on September 16th, when our "Holiday Cruise in September" sets sail from Plymouth Harbor aboard the Pilgrim

Belle. Hope to see you all there!

Anyone interested in joining the Staff Appreciation Committee should contact Donna Brodsky on ext. 108.

New Staff Referral Incentive Program

Congratulations to the following staff who have qualified to receive a \$250 bonus for making a new staff referral.

Richard Cooley (referred Rick Moulton); Nanci Connolly (referred Tina Nichols); Deborah Chappron (referred Jessica Hanlon); Gina Beth Basteri (referred Janet Gardner); Randy Lucero (referred Trish Doherty, Kim Culbert, Comfort Udo & Wibie Saint-Fort); Kim Cole (referred Lynne Flattery); Dolores Tura (referred Robert Santos & Shayla Smart); Dan Lavalley (referred Amanda Doherty).

Welcome New Staff

New England Village extends a warm welcome to the following staff who have joined our Village community since April 2006:

Residential Coordinators James Booth, Joan Smith, Megan Tupper, Daniel LaValley, Allison Fahey, Stephanie Booth, Tara McClellan, Sarah Dermeritt, Kelie Glennon, Orphelia Mentee, Dan Tura, Tembinji Nilson, Amanda Davidson and Alicia Rogers; Paraprofessionals Jessica Hanlon and Lynn Flattery; Weekend Coordinator Amanda Doherty and Residential Manager Ginger Sullivan.

We wish you all the best and hope you have a long and fulfilling career at New England Village.

Our Condolences

We extend our sincere condolences to the family of Susan Basteri, a former employee of the Pathways program, who passed away in July. Sue's daughter, Gina Beth Basteri also works for New England Village. We are truly sorry for your loss.

Enrichment Program News

REMO and Jack's Drum Shop Help Launch NEV's First Drum Circle



Judy Randall (staff) and Glenn Carey learn some rhythm patterns.

Director of Employment Supports Rick Moulton led NEV's first drum circle on Sunday, June 25th. Eighteen residents signed-up for the class. A few months back, Rick had contacted Remo, a world renowned drum manufacturer, and solicited a donation of instruments on the Village's behalf. Remo generously gave NEV over \$2,000 worth of djembe drums and miscellaneous percussion instruments. Hearing about the Remo donation, Jack's Drum Shop on Boylston Street in Boston also donated 9 musical hand shaker instruments. All these wonderful instruments helped to make our first drum circle a "booming" success.

Cruising on the Pilgrim Belle



Joy Bendror and Janet Hirsch aboard the Pilgrim Belle.

On Thursday evening, July 6th, a group of fifty NEV residents and their staff set sail from Plymouth Harbor on what has become the Annual Sunset Dinner Cruise aboard the Pilgrim Belle. Our contingent disembarked in downtown Plymouth and joined the many other tourists who were enjoying a perfect summer evening on the waterfront. After walking the long stretch of pier that leads to the boat, our

group was greeted warmly by the staff of the Pilgrim Belle who knows many of the residents by name. They laughed and joked with each other like long lost friends. This welcome reception is a big part of the reason we return each year; the other incentive is the fantastic buffet that is served. Dinner choices included: beef sirloin, chicken w/ginger sauce, baked ziti, grilled veggies, roasted red potatoes and salad. Everyone left full that night!

After eating dinner in the lower level, many residents chose to go to the upper deck or stand at the front of the boat to enjoy the ocean breeze. Conversation topics included past cruises, the cool weather and the picture-perfect sunset that we were being treated to.

This beautiful paddlewheel boat has become a favorite NEV outing destination. When you combine delicious food with the serenity of the seas, it is easy to see why!



ChipChat!

On Monday, July 24th, Chip Fitts attended a seminar in Taunton entitled "The Outstanding Receptionist." This was a great opportunity for him to build upon the skills that he has developed working in our front office for the past few years. Below is an article Chip wrote about this experience. Way to go Chip!

Seminar for Receptionists

By Chip Fitts

Recently I had the opportunity to attend a seminar for receptionists held at a Holiday Inn in Taunton, MA. Eleven other receptionists also attended the seminar. Everyone was pleasant and approachable and the seminar was lively and animated. The seminar began at 8:30am, there was a short break at 10:15 after which we returned for the remainder of our meeting which ended at noon. I believe everyone came away from this seminar having learned something useful to help with our jobs. It was a worthwhile experience.

Shirley Widerman Remembrance Fund

Established in Shirley Widerman's honor, this program replaces the Happy Day and Remembrance Card Fund. Call Dolores Rezendes at (781) 293-5461 x107 for order forms and sample cards.

Pathways to the Community



Sgt. Kenneth Godfrey

Pen Pal in Iraq

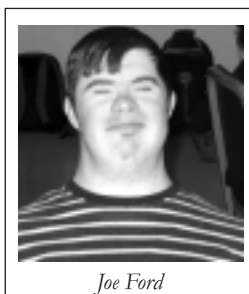
This summer, Pathways Room 1 has been corresponding with T/Sgt. Kenneth Godfrey during his tour of Iraq. Sgt. Godfrey, 35, is the son of Pathways staff member Sandra Godfrey. Along with letters, Room 1 has sent several care packages to the 20th Special Operations Squadron that Kenneth Godfrey belongs to. Sgt. Godfrey has had numerous

tours to the war zone, including Iraq (3x), Afghanistan (2x), and Bosnia (3x). He and his crew even had the opportunity to escort President Bush on a helicopter flight during one of the President's surprise visits to Iraq.

In keeping with the tradition of being pen pals, Sgt. Godfrey recently reciprocated for his care package by sent Room 1 Green Hornet patches for all to enjoy.

Joe Ford Honored

Joe Ford, a member of the Pathways program, was recently honored in the Brockton Enterprise as their *Volunteer of the Week*. It was a tribute befitting Joe, as he has been actively involved in our volunteer program that visits the MSPCA and the Guardian Nursing Home, both in Brockton.



Joe Ford

Aside from community volunteer opportunities, Joe is always taking it upon himself to help out within the Pathways program as well. Joe will independently take attendance, assist other Pathways members when needed and he's always willing to lend a helping hand at clean-up time.

Congratulations Joe, we are all very proud of you!

Pathways Wellness Ride

The second annual Pathways Wellness Ride is in full swing. We haven't even reached the midpoint of the ride, but we have already surpassed last year's total of donations and pledges – due in large part to the generosity President Titanium, a local Hanson business.

The focus of this year's Pathways Wellness Ride is to reconnect with the community as a whole. To do this, Pathways has partnered with the Town of Hanson Fire Department and their efforts to give the town of Hanson the designation of being a "Heart Safe Town."

Becoming a heart safe town is not easy. Aside from having a certain percentage of residents certified in CPR, it also means having defibrillators placed at various locations around town. During this spring's Hanson town meeting, the request by the Fire Department for funds to purchase defibrillators was denied.

That's when Pathways decided to help out the fire department by raising at least enough money for one defibrillator (average cost is between \$1800 and \$2000). That goal, by way of the aforementioned donation by President Titanium, was reached. The revised goal now is to be able to continue building strong ties with the town and raise enough money to purchase two additional units.

If you would like to help out with a donation or pledge, you may contact Michael Burke directly at Pathways. Michael's phone and email are: (781) 447-4413 and mburke@newenglandvillage.org; or, simply mail your donation to Pathways, 15 Commercial Way, Hanson, MA 02341. Checks should be made payable to *New England Village*.



Shanna Dooling logs some time on the recumbent bike for the Wellness Ride.



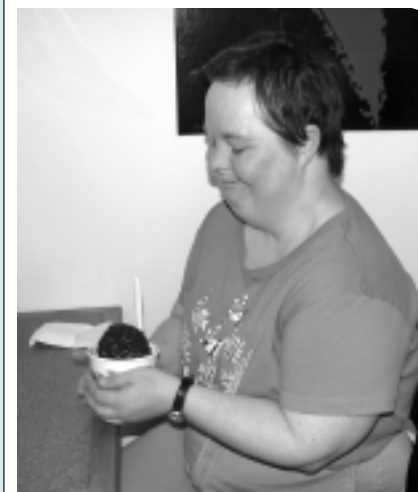
Habitat for Humanity *This spring, 59 participants from New England Village's Pathways Program spent two-and-a-half hours seeding, planting and cleaning up a Habitat for Humanity property in Kingston, so the new owner and her six children would have a beautiful yard to come home to.*

Ice Cream Month

The Living Center

July was National Ice Cream Month and The Living Center thought that was a good enough reason to spend some time learning everything they could about America's favorite dessert!

TLC participants first learned about the nutritional value of ice cream and how important calcium is for strong bones. Using a recipe for "Ice Cream in a Bag" they made their own version of America's favorite ice cream flavor – vanilla, and got to experience first-hand what ingredients go into ice cream. The next step was to conduct a survey of NEV staff to see if their choices were representative of the general population and graph their results. Not surprisingly, chocolate emerged as the clear favorite on this Pembroke campus! With all that talk of favorite ice cream flavors, it was clear that a field trip to Shorty's Ice Cream in Kingston was the perfect ending to this scrumptious activity!



Joan Murray gets ready to enjoy her ice cream from Shorty's.

Apothecare Donation



Dennis Chick presents TLC Manager Deb Mabony with a wheelchair donated to the program by Apothecare of Whitman.

Art Commission

Continued from page 2

"Driven to Abstraction." They are: Roger Gagnon; Frank Kelley; Bob Brown; Gina Diener; Sarah Kenney; Jeff Lewis; Julie Murray; Greg O'Connell; Sandy Young; Joe Hegner; Chuck Gliniewicz. The individuals embraced the opportunity to work on such large canvases. I felt as though they were not intimidated by the size because they have been painting and expanding their knowledge of the fine arts since their previous commission.

The other two panels measure 48 inches x 60 inches, and although they are much larger in scale, this medium provided a cathartic experience for one particular program participant who was the primary artist on both these panels. Sean Early is a talented painter who has a natural eye for color. He originally had started working on two canvases measuring 9 inches x 12 inches simultaneously. We did not know how well he would transition into such large canvases; however, much to our surprise and with limited direction, he picked out a brush and began to paint. It was one of those days that makes you breathe a bit easier and makes the sun shine just a little brighter, knowing that such beautiful things come from such wonderful people. It was best said in the words of Paul Cezanne, "A work of art which did not begin in emotion is not art."



The Landscape Crew, pictured left to right: Chuck Gliniewicz, Ryan Massie (back), Brian Ballem, Renee Patnode, Kim MacDonald, Ed O'Connell and Jeff Emerson.

Crew of the Year Award

It's no wonder the Landscape Crew received the "Crew of the Year Award" at this year's Family Day Celebration. Started in April 2005, the landscape operation has grown to the point where it now serves 25 regular customers and 25 additional spring and fall cleanup clients. The 8-person crew is supervised by Ginny Morrell and has clientele in the towns of Pembroke, Brockton, Marshfield, Kingston, Whitman, Hanover, Bridgewater, Duxbury, Hanson, Middleboro, Raynham, Halifax, Rockland, Sagamore Beach and Braintree. The crew, which charges \$55.00 per hour for their services, starts work in the early spring and goes through the first snow (temperatures permitting.)

SWC CELEBRATES ITS 1ST ANNIVERSARY!



The SWC commemorated its one year anniversary with a week's worth of programming filled with special activities for residents, day program participants and staff alike! Sollar Wellness Center Director Lisa Drennan commented on the achievements of the last year: "In looking back we've accomplished a lot this year. Not only have we worked together to create a safe, warm and welcoming building, but more importantly we've developed a range of exciting, engaging and enriching wellness opportunities. Together, this structure and the events that occur here on a daily basis, have led the way to a year's worth of smiles, achievements and success stories." Captured are some of the highlights from the celebration week (July 31st - August 5th).



TIME CAPSULE

Art Director Melanie Rose-Zagwyn donned her historian hat during the SWC anniversary week and invited everyone associated with the Village to contribute to a commemorative time capsule. The time capsule, which was available for viewing in the SWC display case prior to being tucked away somewhere in the building, contained some of the following items: interviews/questionnaires, photos, NEV and local publications, music class audio recordings and SWC mementos. It will be opened again in August 2007.



Investing in our Future

Continued from page 1

(two 5-bed homes). The gift from the trust will be used to build and help subsidize the operation of a new Smith Home. The expectation is that town approval and bids from contractors will take place this fall, construction will begin in spring '07 and occupancy is targeted for spring '08.

The new Smith Home will likely take the place of an existing home, although unresolved site issues prevent us from making a determination yet which home that will be.

Like the Watson Home, the Smith Home will have state-of-the-art accessibility, but with the added design focus of accommodating a retirement age population. Practically speaking, that means bigger living and common areas for individuals who at this stage of their life would prefer to spend more time at home.

"A task for the Village as a whole is to redefine what life can be like for older adults with developmental disabilities. We must and can create positive and life-affirming systems, environments, and attitudes that nurture mind, body, and spirit," states Laura Leventhal, New England Village's Aging Coordinator. With an RN or LPN assigned to the house and day staffing so individuals can be on a less restrictive schedule and have more opportunities for in-house activities, the new Smith Home will go a long way towards helping us achieve these goals.

Using history as our guide and with an eye towards the future, we know that the investment being made in our homes today will ensure a brighter tomorrow for all of our residents. We are grateful to the Watson and Smith families for their vision and financial backing of these projects. The men and women of New England Village are truly fortunate to have such benevolent supporters.



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Coming Soon

NEVweb, the official NEV employee website - your source of information for all things NEV!



Calendar of Events



A Reel Fish Story



Brian Manson (Smith House staff) proudly displays a 6lb. 3oz. Largemouth Bass he caught at the Hanson Town Pond. (FYI all you animal lovers, Brian released this beauty back into the pond after the photo was taken!)

CPR Classes

September 5, 10:00am-1:00pm. Hanson. September 19, 5:30-8:30pm, Lounge, Sheingold Building. October 12, 5:30-8:30pm, Lounge, Sheingold Building.

First Aid Class

Sept. 6, 10:00am-2:00pm, Hanson.

Direct Care Meeting

September 6, 1:30-3:00pm, SWC.

Human Rights Committee Meeting

September 12, 5:30-8:30pm, Classroom, Sheingold Building. October 14, 10:00am-1:00pm Classroom, Sheingold Building.

Orientation

September 15, 8:45am-1:00pm, SWC, Adm. staff.

Board of Directors Meeting

September 25, 6:00pm, Holiday Inn, Newton, MA

NVCII

September 25 & 26, 9:00am-3:00pm, Classroom, Sheingold Building.

Dev. Dis. Overview

September 27, 1:00-3:00pm, FOR NEW STAFF, Behavioral Interventions with Dually Diagnosed Adults, Classroom, Sheingold Building.

Medical Issues

October 25, 1:00-3:00pm, FOR

NEW STAFF, Classroom, Sheingold Building.

New England Village Board of Directors

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Mrs. Esta-Jean Cahn
Mrs. Diane Dufault
Mr. Steven Kaitz
Dr. Carolyn S. Lilly
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Mr. Barry Sheingold
Mr. Arnold Sollar
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Mr. James Zuckernik