

VDC NEWS



VINELAND DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER/HOSPITAL
VINELAND, NEW JERSEY



NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT
OF
HUMAN SERVICES

MAY 12 1986
ANTHONY L. GRICCO
EDITOR

VOL. V

FEBRUARY 1987

NO. 1

DONATIONS GALORE

Each year at Christmastime we receive a great number of gift items donated by clubs, church and civic organizations and individuals for general distribution to our clients as well as to those who are sponsored. This year was no exception. Every residential unit was contacted and had the opportunity to pick out gifts for those whose funds were limited and assure that no one would be forgotten.

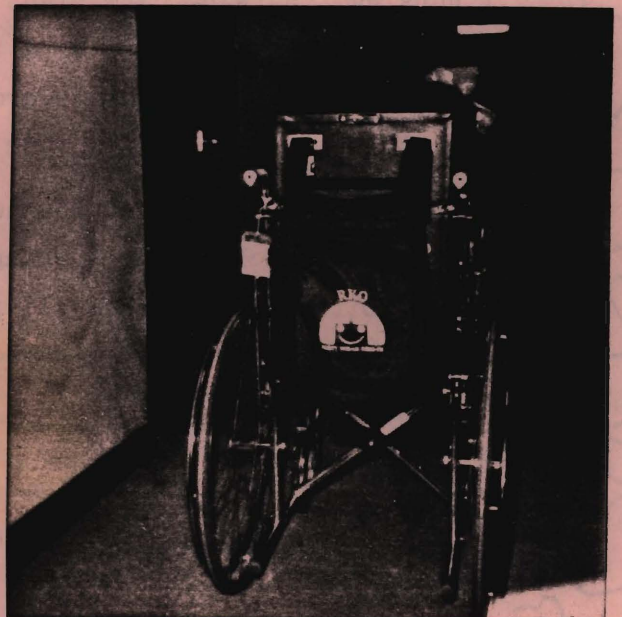
Of particular note was the donation of over 100 stuffed white teddy bears by Harrah's Marina Casino Hotel.

Pond Cottage clients for the fourth year have been provided with a cottage Christmas party with refreshments and a visit from Santa who has a bag of assorted gifts for every resident. The party is organized and put on by Mrs. June Berry of Millville who sponsors a Pond client.

Volunteer Services' donation room has many items appropriate to the needs of our clients which can be selected by authorized cottage personnel. There is at this time an abundance of knit hats available. These and other items of winter outerwear can be selected.

DONATION FILLS SPECIAL NEED

Once in awhile a donation is received by the Volunteer Services Office which turns out to meet a need for which it was not initially designed. Such was the case recently when RKO Children's Christmas Fund made a special donation of nylon book packs to our center. RKO donated 100 of these book packs which it was found could be adapted for use on wheelchairs used by our non-ambulatory clients. A few experiments on wheelchairs at Wolverton adjusting straps to secure the packs proved successful and now personal items needed for the day's activities can be placed conveniently in the book pack and move with the client as she travels from one location to another. Whereas the number of wheelchairs outnumber the available packs, there was of necessity a limited distribution directed at those cottages having the greatest number of wheelchairs.



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SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWS AND VIEWS

One of the finest improvements Vineland Developmental Center has made in recent years has been in the area of cottage nursing services.

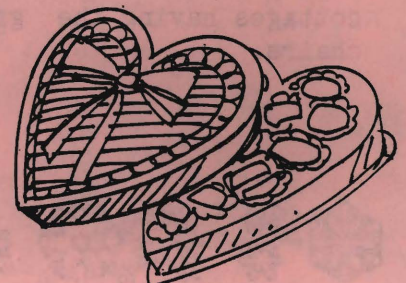
Prior to January '85 the ICF cottages received the bulk of our nursing services. At that point, all cottages were assigned LPN positions on 1st and 2nd shift. Since January '85 nursing has been under the unit system which has enhanced the total team approach. Thus, ICF and non-ICF cottages have nurses not only to administer medications but to monitor nutritional aspects, psychosocial needs, and infection control prevention.

Between 1985 and the summer of 1986 our residential services RN staff has increased from 8 for all sections to 20. This number includes one head nurse per section, part time nurses assisting in sections, and second and third shift RN/QMRP's for both campuses. The RN role has grown from a very task oriented nurse handling immediate client problems, with paperwork assignments, to a total member of the interdisciplinary team; overseeing the LPN's in the unit working closely with HPC, physician, and psychologist on client needs and doing teaching with direct care staff in their role as pseudo family.

The residential services nursing department's philosophy has changed, from following the medical model to one of using a general systems approach to nursing. Nursing care plans are done for every client in the ICF cottages, with recent initiation of a type of "model" plan to increase efficiency. Strides are being made toward increased nursing services in the non-ICF cottages with presently more involvement by the LPN/RN in zone programming.

The responsibility for the administration of this growing department is shared by Denise Micheletti, Nursing Director, the Assistant Superintendents, and the Unit Directors. We are all proud of the way this department has grown and continues to provide improved care for all of our clients.

Robert N. Smith
Superintendent



DONATION FILLS SPECIAL NEED...By Paul Miller, Volunteer Services - Cont. from p. 1

The RKO Children's Christmas Fund under the direction of Mrs. Alberta Reynolds has for many years made donations of hundreds of dollars worth of goods useful to our population at Christmas and during July when summer recreation items are donated. We are very fortunate to have the interest and concern of The Fund which is located in New York City. This Christmas the donation included many items of clothing for indoor and outdoor wear and an assortment of personal items which made ideal gifts for our clients.

WEDDINGS BELLS RANG RECENTLY FOR:

Laura (Muller) Rains - Lee Cottage
Elizabeth (Cecere) Thompson - Giles Cottage

BIRTH CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Patricia Dreyer - Vocational Dept. - Boy
Rosa Holden - Ireland Cottage - Girl
Louise Hopkins - Administration - Girl



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SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO:

Martha Butler, Ireland Cottage, on the loss of her brother
Edith Byers, Hospital, on the loss of her brother
Burdella Collins, Bassett Cottage, on the loss of her sister
Denise Conaway, TLC Education, on the loss of her mother
Bernadette Etter, Kimble Cottage, on the loss of her son
Carolyn Hudgon, North Cottage, on the loss of her mother
Danita Jones, Landis Cottage, on the loss of her father
Doris Gelardo, Payroll, on the loss of her father
Evelyn Morton, Food Service, on the loss of her son
Marion Radford, Sykes Cottage, on the loss of her sister

NEWS FOR YOU FROM:

FOOD SERVICE

By Michael Murphy

The day break was crystal clear, the sunrise beautiful, the air was crisp, as a gentle breeze whipped the fallen leaves across the sidewalks.

Inside the Main Kitchens, the Food Service Employees were busily preparing the Festive Christmas Feast.

Turkey, Stuffing, Sweet Potatoes, Peas, Gravy, and Cherry Pie. Tablecloths, Placemats, Napkins, and Decorated Dining Rooms completed the festive theme.

On this day, all of the cooperation and support we hope for and work so hard for all year long became a reality as different groups of employees worked together, in complete harmony, for the one common goal of wishing a Merry Christmas to All and Peace on Earth.

But wait--What do Tablecloths, Placemats and Napkins have to do with it? Well, it was the first step in the Food Service Department's long range goal of providing first class food and services to the clients. So, on this day, the clients could come to the dining room,

Cont. on p. 4



NEWS FOR FOR YOU FROM: Cont. from p. 3-Food Service

be seated at a warmly decorated table, and be served banquet style by their Super Food Service Staff.

FOSTER GRANDPARENTS

By Joan Achey

The Foster Grandparent Program at Vineland Developmental Center held its Christmas Recognition Luncheon, Thursday, December 18, 1986, at the Moose Hall, Vineland. This annual affair recognized the service of 73 senior citizen volunteers who participate in the program locally. These volunteers have worked a combined total of 59,000+ hours in 1986.

The Foster Grandparent Program is one of several Older American Volunteer Programs headed by the Federal Volunteer Agency, ACTION. The dual purpose of this program is to provide opportunities for low income persons aged 60 or over to give supportive person-to-person services to special needs children.

Established at Vineland Developmental Center in 1968 to serve mentally retarded children, the foster grandparents now also serve at American Institute/The Training School at Vineland and Cumberland County Day Training Center.

At this year's luncheon 5 foster grandparents received recognition for 18 years of service in the program, 14 received awards for 10 to 14 years of service, 18-5 to 9 years service, and 30-1 to 4 years service.

Vineland Developmental Center Foster Grandparent Program is an agency of United Way of Greater Cumberland County and its senior citizen volunteers live throughout the Cumberland County area.

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Recently I was asked (by a person not familiar with the Foster Grandparent Program) "What exactly do Foster Grandparents do?" I thought a while and had to admit that I really don't know how to put into words the exact things they do. The grannies work with clients of all ability levels - each client's needs are different and therefore each grandparent's task is different.

While what a grandparent does is important, we feel that what a grandparent is, is more important. A grandparent is caring and sharing, a grandparent is fun, a grandparent is a person who spoils their grandchildren. In short, a grandparent is love. And that is what a Foster Grandparent is - love. They are the only people who come into the institution each day with the sole purpose of showing a client how special and unique she is.

Grandparents have worked on grounds for many years and it's tempting to think of them as an employee. We think it's important to remember that the granny's role is different, it's not to teach, and it's not to program (although they often help with these tasks), their main function is to love.

HOSPITALRECOVERY ROOM NURSING

By Jeannine Hennessy, R.N.

Have you ever awakened from a sound sleep and not know immediately where you were? Couple that feeling with a certain amount of post-operative pain, and you might be able to imagine how it feels to wake up in the "Recovery Room" after having surgery.

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NEWS FOR YOU FROM: Cont. from p. 4 - Hospital

The staff here at VDC/Hospital Recovery Room try to allay the anxiety of our clients (as well as those from referring institutions) who undergo surgery. In addition to providing for the client's physical needs during the immediate post-op period, the Recovery Room staff also have the added challenge of trying to communicate a feeling of calm reassurance in an effort to alleviate the client's fear.

Our Recovery Room is staffed with one Registered Nurse and one C.T.T. whose regular responsibilities are transporting the patient safely to and from the department, managing their I.V.'s, taking their blood pressures, pulses, respiration and communicating all this information to the Surgeon and Anesthesiologist. In addition, specific attention is given to the area of surgery, such as an incision site after a fractured hip has been repaired or the patient's mouth after having extensive oral rehabilitation done. But one of the most important qualifications is to make every attempt to reassure that patient that his/her discomfort and feelings of confusion are only temporary, and that their lives will return to normal with routines with which they are familiar.

It is this type of care that makes every day in Recovery Room a new and different Nursing experience.

CENTRAL HOUSEKEEPING

By Martha Lambert

As we start into a new year I would like to give Arlene (Debbie) Isihos, Clerk Transcriber, a warm welcome to the Central Housekeeping Department. Debbie was a former SBMW in Harper Cottage and has been with us since this past summer.

There are a lot of SBMW's who have many hidden talents and potential. This is certainly one of the examples of a SBMW moving ahead. We hope to see more advancements and opportunities in the future for the SBMW. We wish Debbie much luck and success.

Congratulations to our former secretary Thelma Gould on her new position and to Mr. Thomas Lane on his marriage this past summer.

Central Housekeeping accomplished much in 1986 and I think all of the SBMW's deserve a round of applause for all their hard work.

Thanks to Mr. Finney, Head Housekeeper, for participating in making arrangements for our clients and employees to enjoy some very good gospel singing throughout the past year.

Household Hint - Lipstick stains can be removed easily on washable garments if you rub vaseline into that spot then launder.

NEWS FROM ASST. SUPERINTENDENT - EAST

By Whelma Irby

"Up from De-Certification - Where do we go from here?"

Take a sigh of relief and go ahead - pat yourselves on the back. You have earned it! But don't take a seat because we are not finished yet.

Personally, I believe that we must continue to strive ahead if we are to secure our newly gained status. Therefore, such practices as Active Treatment, Zoning and teamwork must become our priorities equal to good client care and sanitation procedures.

I know that our newly appointed Superintendent, Mr. Robert N. Smith, has set his sights on us being the best facility in the State and in the Nation. As a member of his team,

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ASST.SUPT. - EAST - Cont. from p. 5

I have proudly joined him and have committed my resources toward these goals. We have a new year ahead of us. Together we will endeavor to heighten all possible avenues toward attaining our goals and toward developing a Residential Services team unlike any that exist in the State. Who knows, if we really work hard at it, perhaps we will be invited to a superbowl game designed for Residential Services providers. In any case, we have an even bigger job ahead of us. Because of this, each team member can play a key role and is needed if we are to succeed. Join us as we practice to become superbowl contenders on behalf of the clients that we serve.

NEWS FROM ASST. SUPERINTENDENT - WEST

By Virginia Bianchi

Creativity is always welcome at the Vineland Developmental Center. That is why we especially welcome Dr. William Schrock, DMD. Bill was recruited from private practice in Pennsylvania and has brought the benefits of his experience to Vineland.

In addition, he brings the vital attributes of good caring and imagination. With the assistance of his staff and a couple of quiet "props", he makes a visit to the dentist much less fearful for our clients. They look forward to the "surprise" after treatment.

Bill is a 1981 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He recently relocated to Vineland from Johnstown, Pennsylvania. We hope he enjoys New Jersey and plans to stay.

EDUCATION

By Harriet Levin

Congratulations:

Mrs. Cheryl Lewis, School Social Worker, has changed SFEA positions. She received certification as a School Psychologist last Spring and is replacing Dr. K. Cohen. Dr. Cohen has become part of a Child Study Team serving the Southern section of New Jersey thru the Office of Education

MUCH HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS IN YOUR NEW POSITION CHERYL.

THE LEARNING CENTER

By Lynette Smith

The young ladies at The Learning Center did their Christmas shopping in style this year. On December 17, 1986, a group of students and chaperones traveled to Lindenwald to catch the High Speed Line to The Gallery in Philadelphia. It was both a learning experience and a "fun day" for the girls.

They had their first experience with feeding tickets to a turnstile and with riding a train. The girls especially enjoyed going through the dark tunnels. We found that we have some very good ghost imitators among our students.

When we arrived at The Gallery, the girls had a good time riding in the glass elevators, particularly "splashing down" in the fountain at the bottom. They also enjoyed crossing above the street and watching the cars passing underneath them. There was an exhibit of pushcarts set up with a variety of merchandise from candy and cookies to books to jewelry.



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RESIDENT ACTIVITIES - Cont. from p. 6

The girls were fascinated with a display of very lifelike puppets and with the puppeteer. They each came home with a puppet of their own.

We had lunch at the food court in the mall, which proved to be a gustatory delight. The girls' lunches ranged from fried chicken and ribs to egg rolls to Philly cheesecakes (which was a first for many).

By the time we were ready to come home, the girls had had their senses satiated. They saw new things, heard new sounds, tasted different foods, smelled Philadelphia's unique smells, had new transportation experiences, and spent their money. Everyone came home tired, but happy and satisfied.

NEWS FROM CROSS COTTAGE...The clients of Cross Cottage kicked off the holiday season on November 13th, with a Chinese luncheon and dance party in the cottage. The women filled up their bellies on a variety of Chinese food from the Peking Restaurant including soups, entrees and fortune cookies for dessert. Meanwhile, a professional Disc Jockey Dino "Wild Man" Epps set up his equipment. "Wild Man" volunteered his time to spin records for the clients all afternoon. The women in Cross really enjoyed the opportunity to listen to a great selection of music and dance to their hearts content with their peers and direct care staff. The clients in Cross wish to thank everyone involved for such a good time and hope "Wild Man" will come back again....By Rita Nowak

NOTES FROM RECREATION - By Retta Burch

Due to renovations to our Auditorium, Winter coed dances will be held at Woodbine Developmental Center on Thursday's as follows:

February 19
March 19

Holiday activities will be scheduled at the Multi-Purpose Building to celebrate:

Presidents' Day (February)
Valentine's Day (February)
St. Patrick's Day (March)



On Friday, February 13th, members of the Vineland Rotary Club will host their **Annual Valentine Party** at 7:00 P.M. in the Multi-Purpose Building. Holiday songs, dancing, gifts and refreshments will highlight this activity.

On Friday, March 13th, the "Knights of Pythias of Vineland" have donated tickets for 20 clients to attend an **Ice Show** scheduled to be held at the Vineland High School at 5:00 P.M.

Sunday Religious Services, Including musical accompaniment, are held in the Multi-Purpose Building Chapel at 12:15 P.M. Individual client counseling for the Catholic, Episcopal and Jewish faiths may be arranged by contacting Ms. Retta Burch at 6054.

Movies, Jazzercise and Refreshment Socials are held weekly on Saturday and Sundays in the Multi-Purpose Building. Check your Central Recreation Newsletter or contact Ms. Carol Simpson at 6091.

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NOTES FROM RECREATION - Cont. from p. 7

Wednesday afternoons in February and March, Special Olympic Bowling Training Sessions are held 2:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. at the Loyle Lanes in Vineland.

Friday afternoons in February and March, Special Olympic Swimming Training Sessions are held 2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. at the Vineland Y.M.C.A.

Saturday, February 14th - Area 8 Special Olympic Bowling Meet will be held at the Bowl-O-Drome in Bridgeton. Our clients are scheduled to compete.

Saturday, February 28th - Area 8 Special Olympic Team Bowling Meet will be held at D'Donato Lanes in Hammonton. Our clients will compete.

Saturday, March 14th - New Jersey Special Olympic State Bowling Meet will be held at Carolier Lanes in New Brunswick. Our clients are scheduled to compete.

Congratulations to Joyce Sample, West Cottage athlete, who was selected to join the New Jersey State Track Team who will be going to Notre Dame University to compete in the 1987 International Special Olympic Summer Games. The competition will take place July 31 thru August 8, 1987. Over 60 countries are expected to attend and compete. Vito M. Ingerto, our Athletic Director, has also been selected to be Head Coach of the New Jersey Softball Team.

Our athletes are also excited about the upcoming State Winter Games Competition at Great Gorge in McAfee, NJ. The Vineland Developmental Center Team has eleven young ladies who will compete in Downhill and Cross-Country skiing. The games will take place February 3-6, 1987.

SNOW EMERGENCYTO: ALL VDC STAFFFROM: Robert N. Smith, Superintendent

I would like to thank each employee who, despite personal inconvenience and even discomfort, participated in pulling VDC through the snow crisis on January 25-26. Many of you made extraordinary efforts to get to work and relieve fellow employees. Many worked multiple shifts so that our clients could receive the care they need. Others provided much needed help in transportation, clearing roadways and fire escapes, etc.

Your efforts during this crisis exemplify all that is best about Vineland Developmental Center. We are an organization comprised of many individuals from various departments working toward a common goal: Cooperating to provide the very best services possible for the clients entrusted to our care.

