



new jersey
department of
HUMAN SERVICES

VDC NEWS

Robert N. Smith
Chief Executive Officer

VINELAND DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER
VINELAND, NEW JERSEY

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185 W. STATE ST. TRENTON, N.J. A WALK FOR HEALTHIER BABIES

Wow, What a Walk! Twenty-nine employees, friends, and women who reside at Vineland Developmental Center participated in the March of Dimes Annual Walk America on April 28, 1991. They joined over 700 walkers from Cumberland County who succeeded in raising 64 thousand plus dollars to date.

The Vineland Developmental Center walkathon team leader Robert N. Smith, Chief Executive Officer, and the two team captains, Whelma B. Irby, Director of Operations and Connie Johnson, Director of Quality Assurance, proudly accepted five awards for Vineland's outstanding performance during this phenomenal event. Vineland Developmental Center earned recognition as being the best new team in Cumberland County for 1991. Recognition was also given for raising \$2,892 to support research to prevent birth defects. Mr. Smith, Phyllis Lera and Paul Grayson were acknowledged as "Battered Boot" recipients since each of these individuals succeeded in raising more than \$500 each.

The awards were presented at a gala affair held at the Garden State Race Track, Phoenix Dining Room, on June 12, 1991. Phyllis Lera earned the distinguished honor of being the highest fund raiser here at Vineland Developmental Center and is to be congratulated for raising \$532 for this most worthy cause.

Also to be mentioned with honors for their diligent efforts are Marjorie Body (\$136), Rebecca Stiles (\$125), Susan Andrews (\$118.50) and Amber Eble (\$118). Congratulations to each and every one of you who participated in this exciting project.



Congratulations!

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S NEWS AND VIEWS

Robert N. Smith
Chief Executive Officer

POSITIVE APPROACHES

Ralph J. Sneed, Ph.D., Director of Program Operations of the Office of Mental Retardation in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania was the keynote speaker at the New Jersey Southern Region AAMR Direct Care Conference held at Vineland Developmental Center on June 6, 1991. The title of Dr. Sneed's presentation was "Lives of Consequence or 20th Century Heroes and Heroines." In his address, Dr. Sneed noted that all individuals need personal champions - people who will advocate on their behalf for their safety and well-being. Human beings need to know that someone cares about them and will look after their interests.

A few of us may have participated in life saving experiences such as providing a Heimlich maneuver or finding an individual who had been missing from the Center, but more of us have been involved in less dramatic moments which are just as noteworthy. We need to recognize the importance of what to some may seem insignificant. We need to take pride and satisfaction when someone accomplishes a goal - when a person learns to eat, dress, or communicate. The field of developmental disabilities is in the midst of a revolution. We have gone from custodial care to active treatment, clients to individuals, pegboards to competitive employment, control to choices, restraints to relationships, and puree to Pizza Hut.

The value of using the following positive approaches was emphasized by Dr. Sneed:

1. Focus on what the person is attempting to communicate.
2. Provide everyone with a personal champion.
3. Determine people's dreams; their nightmares.
4. Ask whether anger is really fear.
5. Stop defining people according to their worst behavior.
6. Be careful to avoid making people drastic.
7. Give power and influence to the powerless.
8. Change our perception of people.
9. Be careful to convey the message:

"WE VALUE YOU."

If we are really serious about using positive approaches, we need to:

Listen to people
Look for meaning in people's behavior
Create opportunities
Offer choices
Not view punishment as an option

Dr. Sneed concluded his presentation by saying that we should never underestimate the power of an act of kindness. We must let people know our values, even when this means taking difficult stands which may be unpopular. All of us need to take positive approaches with the individuals whom we serve. We are people of consequence who are 20th century heroes and heroines.

Anthony Gricco has recently resigned as editor of the VDC News because of his promotion and transfer to the Department of Personnel. On behalf of the many readers of the VDC News, I extend my appreciation to Tony for his six years of outstanding service as editor. A thank you is also in order for Carol Scibilia who has typed and provided the art work for the news for the past four years. Congratulations and best of luck to both Tony and Carol in their new positions with the Human Resource Development Institute, Southern Region, which will be located at Vineland Developmental Center. I am sure that you will join with me in welcoming Carole Braida, Director of Volunteer Services as the newly appointed editor of the VDC News and Mary Jane Ronchetti, Principal Clerk Transcriber as typist.

NEWS FROM THE FOSTER GRANDPARENTS...

Submitted by: Joan Achey, Comm. Supervisor, FGP/SCP

On Saturday, April 27th several Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions could be found manning an information table at the Cumberland Mall for the Mall's Community Fair Day. Volunteers were there to pass out brochures and give information on our programs to anyone who was interested. The goal, of course, was to recruit senior citizens to come and volunteer with us.

During May we celebrated the 90th birthday of grandmom Macie Sanders of Wolverton Cottage. The staff of Wolverton surprised Macie with a birthday party on May 1st to commemorate this special occasion. Macie who said there was no reason to fuss, "it's just another birthday," plans to stay with our program as long as possible - at least until she's 100. A Foster Grandparent since 1972, Macie currently works with Lisa O'Donald and Viola Hamilton. We would like to thank Theresa Kuzilla, Shirley Mehaffey, Hannah Matthews, and all Wolverton's staff for making Macie's day so special.



"DID YOU HEAR THE GOOD NEWS?"

Submitted by: Ronald Segers, Rehabilitation Engineer

Question: Did you hear the good news? What good news?

Answer: Project A.B.L.E. (Adapting Basic Life Environment) has a Vocational Linkage Service.

Question: What do they do?

Answer: They help people with specific disabilities function in their living areas and community by modifying job sites and living area to meet their needs. They also help them find Community Services, develop interviewing skills, and a proper resume. They work with such agencies as the O.T.C. (Occupational Training Center) and D.V.R. (Division of Vocational Rehab). The Linkage Service is offering help to anyone preparing to go to Group Homes or already in the community.

Question: Wow! That is good news. Who do I contact?

Answer: Ronald Segers, at extension 6349 is in charge of this service area. He works in Giles Building with the rest of Project A.B.L.E. providing a variety of adaptive services.

Project A.B.L.E. Staff

Debbie Isihos, Sr. Clerk Transcriber
Charles Marder, CPI, Project Manager
Carolyn Parks-Heuman, Sr. Rehab. Engineer
Roberto Rodriguez, Rehab. Engineer
Ronald Segers, Rehab. Engineer

A.C.P. Staff

Tracy A. Bombara, SHSI
Myla Rhubart, SHSI

**PATHWAYS TO LEARNING****"A New Beginning"**

Submitted by: Jamelle Segers, STPA-BM

Our newest special program located on the second floor in Giles Cottage is Pathway Learning Center, which functions on a Monday thru Friday basis. The Pathway Learning Center is staffed by Jamelle Segers, STPA-BM and Beatrice Radford, BMPT. The immediate goal for Pathways is to provide an emotionally relaxed environment which affords opportunities for tactile stimulation for those who are visually impaired.

On Monday, April 8, East Cottage staff said good luck to Nancy Brunetti, Karen Stevens, Barbara Bermel, and Karen Colangelo, the four ladies from their cottage who are attending the first stages of the program.



SOUTHERN REGION DIRECT CARE CONFERENCE**Submitted by: Charlotte A. O'Neill, Executive Assistant**

Over 300 people from 34 agencies in the southern region of the state attended the New Jersey Southern Region American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR) Direct Care Conference held at Vineland Developmental Center on June 6, 1991. Robert N. Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Vineland Developmental Center and Southern Region Coordinator for New Jersey AAMR initiated the idea of holding a southern region conference, and he was assisted in making this idea a reality by a committee consisting of representatives from Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Gloucester, and Salem County Associations for Retarded Citizens (ARC's); Bancroft; Caring House Projects, Inc.; Community Services, Southern Regional Office; the Devereux Foundation; Kelsch Associates; and New Lisbon, Vineland, and Woodbine Developmental Centers.

Robert B. Nicholas, Ph.D., Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities welcomed the conference participants, and thanked AAMR for arranging the conference. Dr. Nicholas spoke of the tremendous accomplishments which have occurred in the field of developmental disabilities during the last decade. People with disabilities are living in the community and working at real jobs. Staff from community services, developmental centers, and private agencies are achieving success by integrating ideas and working together to forge public/private partnerships. Dr. Nicholas concluded his remarks by advising us to use the day as an opportunity to re-dedicate and re-energize ourselves to do the best job possible for the people that we serve.

Denise Micheletti, Chief Executive Officer, Woodbine Developmental Center and President-Elect of the New Jersey Chapter of AAMR introduced the conference's keynote speaker, Ralph J. Sneed, Ph.D., Director of Program Operations of the Office of Mental Retardation in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Dr. Sneed spoke about the importance of assuring that people with disabilities have personal champions who will advocate on their behalf. The need for using positive approaches and focusing on people with disabilities as human beings was emphasized. Dr. Sneed ended his presentation by saying that we should never underestimate the power of an act of kindness. He challenged us to live our lives as people of consequence who are 20th century heroes and heroines.

Response to the 36 workshop sessions, which spanned 12 topics related to developmental disabilities, was overwhelmingly positive. The workshops not only provided exposure to the latest trends in the field, but also afforded people an opportunity to network with staff from the many agencies who were represented at the conference. The planning committee was very pleased with the outcome of the day and hopes that the conference will be the first of many more.

NORTH COTTAGE HAPPENINGS

By: Rosemarie Peek, CTS

On March 27, 1991, the women residing in North Cottage were treated to an Easter Party. The cottage was beautifully decorated with yellow and purple balloons, plastic eggs and various Easter cut outs. After the sumptuous meal, everyone participated in an Easter Egg hunt. All who participated received a small basket of candy. Other activities included a trip to Cowtown and dinner at the Neptune followed by a show. North Cottage is certainly on the move.

**"A Message From Main Cottage"**

Submitted by: Lillian Bell, STPA

Congratulations to all of the ladies that have been placed in the community. We wish them all good luck and happiness in their new homes.

A special congratulation to Mrs. Leola Dockery, HCTS, for her 25 years of service.

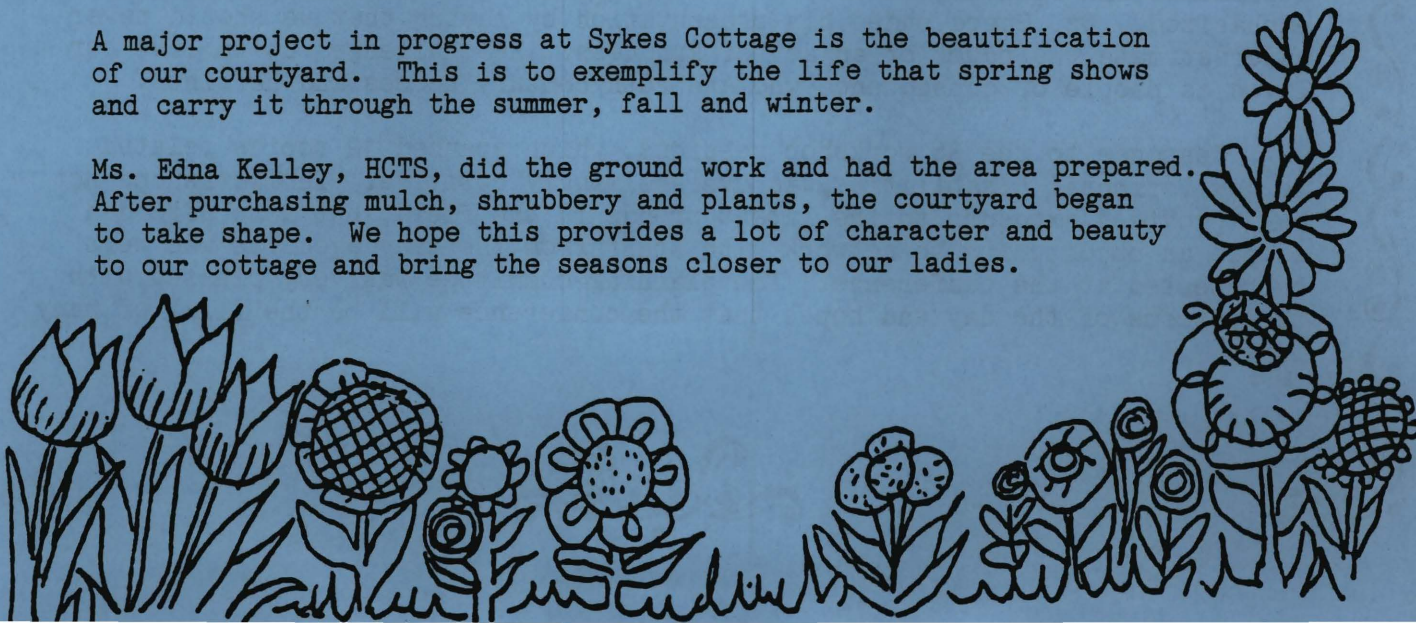
Many trips are being planned for the spring and summer. Some of the destinations will be Sesame Place, Great Adventure, Bridgeton Zoo, and Cape May Zoo. Everyone is excited about the upcoming adventures.

**"Spring, Summer and Sykes"**

Submitted by: Sean Trucano, STPA/Rec.

A major project in progress at Sykes Cottage is the beautification of our courtyard. This is to exemplify the life that spring shows and carry it through the summer, fall and winter.

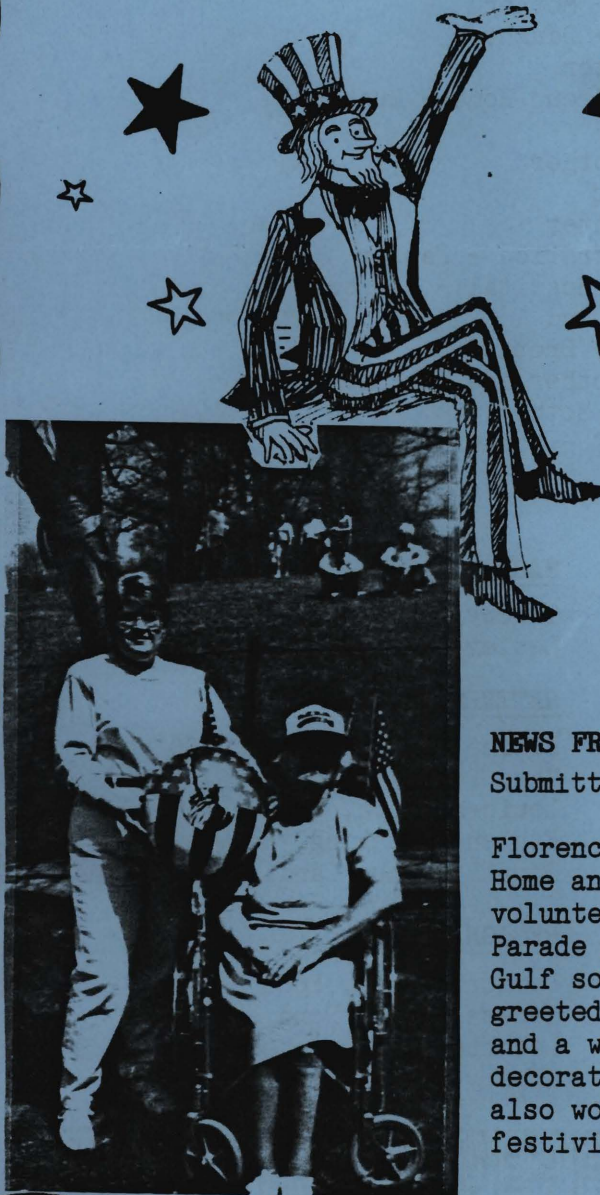
Ms. Edna Kelley, HCTS, did the ground work and had the area prepared. After purchasing mulch, shrubbery and plants, the courtyard began to take shape. We hope this provides a lot of character and beauty to our cottage and bring the seasons closer to our ladies.



"A VISIT FROM A SPECIAL PEN PAL"

Submitted by: Marlene Harris, Therapy Aid
E/C Vocation Department

Navy Corpsman Megan Fogg visited her favorite pen pals in one of the classes at the Vocational Department at Vineland Developmental Center. Megan said she just had to come and thank the ladies in person for all their drawings, letters and cards. She had been stationed in the Persian Gulf for seven months aboard the USS Comfort and was glad to be home.



NEWS FROM CHESTNUT AVENUE GROUP HOME...

Submitted by: Kimberly Krady, Audiologist

Florence Rose of the Chestnut Avenue Group Home and Kimberly Krady, Audiologist and volunteer sponsor, attended the Cherry Hill Parade honoring Lt. Zaun and other Persian Gulf soldiers on April 7, 1991. Florence greeted the soldiers with a military salute and a warm smile. Her wheelchair was decorated with flags and balloons. Florence also wore a Desert Storm cap for the festivities.

VINELAND DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Submitted by: Jane A. Clark, Gift Chairperson, VDCEA

DEATHS

Dorothy Battle, Ireland - Mother
 Ann Connolly, Ireland - Father
 Fannie Doss, Grisco - Daughter
 Timothy Doss, Housekeeping W/C - Sister
 Thomas Doss, Housekeeping W/C - Sister
 Ruthie Doss, Fisher - Sister
 Herta Reissek, Harper - Husband
 Boris Reissek, Jr., Unit 4 - Father
 Philip Shaw, Transportation - Mother
 Ellen Bleda, HPS Department - Daughter
 Joyce Bleda, Wolverton - Sister
 Linda Fields, Weymouth Road Group Home - Husband
 Joan Gooch, Grisco - Father
 Joy Haughton, Wolverton - Brother
 Judy Joubert, Fisher - Mother
 Esther Mendez, Landis - Daughter
 Mary Jane Ronchetti, Administration - Father
 Samuel DeMarco, Housekeeping Hospital - Father
 Joanne Johnson, Landis - Husband
 Adelia Svaluto, Sewing Room - Brother
 Martha Williams, Emerlee - Mother and Brother
 Luis Amberths, Kitchen E/C - Mother
 Angel Echevarria, Kitchen E/C - Mother
 Mary Pagan, East - Husband

BIRTHS

Savannah Foster, Wolverton - Girl
 Carrie Green, Pond - Boy
 Cynthia Haynes, Housekeeping - Girl
 Dot Net Pierce, Grisco - Girl
 Vernetta Boucher, Cross - Girl
 Ina Harris, Regan - Boy
 MaryAnn Brown, Employee Relations - Girl
 O'Connell Brown, Electric Shop - Girl
 Winsome Brown, Sykes - Girl
 Sharon Smith, Psychology - Girl
 Lucrezia Krolikowski, Fisher - Girl
 Patricia Ruberti, Wolverton - Boy
 Karen Williams, Housekeeping W/C - Boy
 Jacquetta Rawls, Landis - Boy
 Sharlene Broughton, East - Girl

MARRIAGE

Tracey Gillette Mortimore, Allen
 Lesley Sturgill Onda, Giles

RETIREMENTS

Elaine Bell, Ireland - 30 years
 Mary Pernell, Pond - 27 years
 Louis Mazzola, Vocation - 22 years
 Ethlynde Cocking, Reeves - 13 years
 Genell Smith, Landis - 12 years

RESIGNATIONS

David Tillman, Food Service - 5 years
 Teresa Gorgo, Pond - 5 years
 Ladonna Lopez, Jones - 10 years
 Shelby Harwell, Lee - 9 years



Vineland Developmental Center Employees' Association

Submitted by: Carole Braida, Social Chairperson

Centerton Country Club was filled to capacity with 700 people who attended the **29th Annual VDCEA Awards Dinner Dance** on April 28, 1991. Dignitaries, families and friends were on hand to honor 187 awardees. The mood was festive as people greeted co-workers and enjoyed the food and fun. Door prizes, raffles and dance contests added to the excitement of the evening. Many thanks to the Social Committee for their hard work in coordinating this major event.

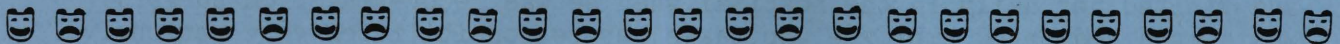
The Social Committee is already formulating plans for our 50th Anniversary Dinner in 1992.

A special thank you to Larry, Laura, Mike and the entire staff at Centerton Country Club for their untiring cooperation and support.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th - VDCEA Talent Show to be held at the West Campus Learning Center

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11th - Flea Market to be held in the East Campus Auditorium



DID YOU KNOW???.....

- * Connie Johnson (Quality Assurance) has been appointed to the Cumberland County Community Relations Council.
- * Lou Coltri (Grounds Department) is the current New Jersey Sporting Clay Association State Champion.
- * Roberto Rodriguez (Rehab Engineering) was honored as the 1991 Rehabilitant of the Year by the New Jersey Rehabilitation Assoc.
- * Jerry Hall (Affirmative Action) has been elected Regional Treasurer of the American Association for Affirmative Action/Region II.
- * Edwina Jalowitz Thom (Unit 5) received Honorable Mention in a national poetry contest for her poem "A Love Unspoken".
- * Recipients of Nursing Scholarships who recently graduated are: Charlotte Farside, Sandra Agostine, Betty Gibson, Marie Tindall, Emma Mendez, Ekaterina Kononov.



OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - APRIL, 1991

Itilda Francis, Cottage Training Technician, Grisco Cottage has been selected "Outstanding Employee of the Month" for April, 1991. Itilda is a caring person whose number one priority is the women who reside at Vineland Developmental Center. She treats those entrusted to her care as well as her fellow staff members with dignity and respect. She is to be commended for the special effort which she takes to understand the communication of those who cannot speak. Itilda approaches her work in an enthusiastic, optimistic manner and she is most deserving of recognition as "Outstanding Employee of the Month".

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - MAY, 1991

Maria Colomy, Electroencephalographer, Hospital has been named "Outstanding Employee of the Month" for May, 1991. Maria is deserving of recognition for the kindness which she extended to an individual once served by Vineland Developmental Center, who later became an employee of the facility. When this person retired, Maria helped her find and furnish an apartment. Maria also assisted her in locating a physician when she had health problems, and visited her daily in the hospital when she was recovering from surgery. Maria is a dedicated employee who takes her responsibilities very seriously. She made it a point to be present at the last Employee Health Fair to do EKG testing even though she had a fractured foot. Congratulations to Maria for her nine years of dedication and service to Vineland Developmental Center.

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - JUNE, 1991

Alice G. Hartz, Resident Living Specialist, VDC/PAFA Group Homes has been chosen "Outstanding Employee of the Month" for June, 1991. Before being promoted to her present position three years ago, Alice had worked for ten years in a direct care position in Vineland Developmental Center's Hospital. Alice works as a floater, and as such, can be called into work any day on any shift. No matter what the assignment, Alice can be counted on to perform her work duties in a cheerful, competent manner. She gives individual attention to each of the women with whom she works, and she treats them with the kindness and respect that they deserve. Alice is a dedicated employee who is to be commended for outstanding service to Vineland Developmental Center.



April

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

APRIL, 1991

ITILDA FRANCIS

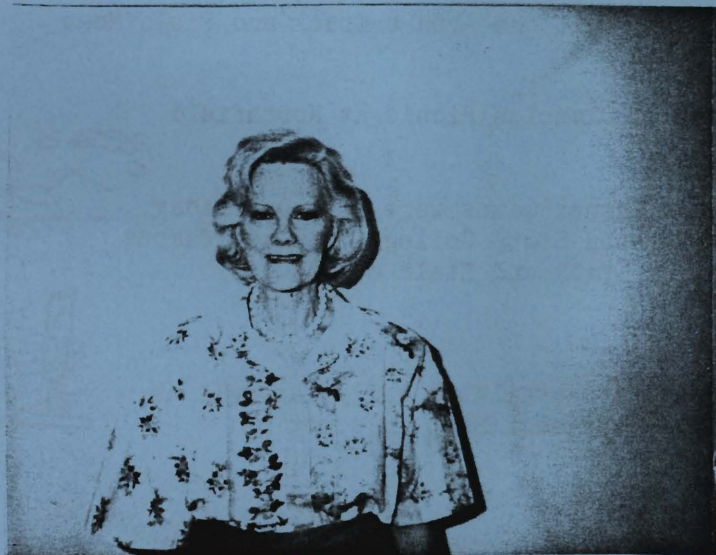


May

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

MAY, 1991

MARIA COLOMY



June

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

JUNE, 1991

ALICE G. HARTZ

EAST CAMPUS RECREATION NEWS

Submitted by Retta Burch, Supervisor

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES:

A Shamrock Contest was held on Tuesday, March 19th in the auditorium. Winners were: 1st Place-Bassett Cottage, 2nd Place-Regan Cottage and 3rd Place-Reeves Cottage. Sheet cake, "green" custard and soda were served.



The Vineland Musicians Union Band performed in the Auditorium on Wednesday, March 20th, for our ladies listening enjoyment. Coffee and cookies were served.

A Hat Decorating Contest and Bunny Hop were held on Wednesday, March 27th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. All cottages were given a hat to decorate and return to the Bunny Hop for judging. All cottages participating received a five pound decorated coconut egg. Some very original ideas were utilized. The staff returned the hats to their respective cottage to be enjoyed by all.

Breakfast with the Bunny was held at the Auditorium on Thursday, March 28th, with apple-filled pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, orange juice and milk served.

St. Patrick's Day and Easter were celebrated in the Hospital with holiday refreshments and goodies.

The Annual Agape (Love) Dinner was held at St. Francis of Assisi Parish with 8 women from Lee Cottage and their chaperones attending on Thursday, May 2nd. Dinner, musical entertainment and individualized gifts completed this evening.

Evening in Nashville - 30 clients traveled to Bridgeton High School on Friday, May 10th to enjoy "Tommy Cash and the Tom Cats" performance.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

An Invitational Track and Field Meet was held on Saturday, April 20th at Absegami High School with 8 East Campus athletes competing.

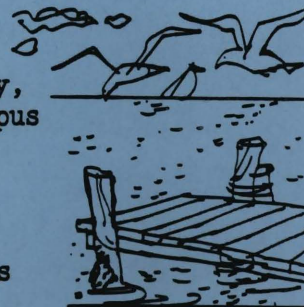
On Friday, May 3rd, 19 athletes competed at the Area 8 Track and Field Meet held at the Buena Regional High School.

8 athletes attended the Area 8 Special Olympics Picnic at Northfield Saturday, May 11th.

The 1991 New Jersey Special Olympics Summer Games were held on Friday, May 31st thru Sunday, June 2nd at Trenton State College. 8 East Campus athletes competed in Team Bowling and Track and Field events.

CORNER CANTEEN

Fresh salads, sandwiches and hot dogs are available daily, as well as fruit juice, soda, snack items and ice cream. Stop in sometime!



WEST CAMPUS RECREATION ATHLETICS

By: Joan Lockwood, Physical Education Teacher/Recreation

ATHLETIC MEETS

The Area 8 Special Olympic Track and Field Meet was held on Friday, May 3, 1991. The athletes' hard work paid off as many of them improved their scores a great deal. West Campus was well represented with 23 athletes, each participating in two events. The ribbons won were 8 First Place, 12 Second Place, 13 Third Place, and 8 Fourth Place.

Results of team bowling held in Hammonton, New Jersey on April 27, 1991 were:

Team 1 took 2nd Place

P. Gatti
J. Karyczak
A. Ogrodney
K. Ridings

**Team 2 took 2nd Place**

M. DeJesus
L. Duddy
P. Peschock
F. Rogozinski

Several athletes are looking forward to the State Meet held at Trenton State College on May 31, Jun 1 and 2. Lorraine Duddy, Pam Peschock, Florence Rogozinski, and Mildalia DeJesus are participants in the bowling competition held on Saturday and Sunday. Competition will also be taking place at the track and field areas. Athletes participating are Cynthia Litchfield, Kathy Ridings, Alexis Ogrodney, Johanna Karyczak, Christine Carocci, Marjorie Body, and Donna Barber.

SPECIAL OLYMPIC PICNIC

May West Campus athletes had a fun and relaxing day at the Area 8 Special Olympics Picnic held May 11, 1991. The picnic took place at Birch Grove Park in Northfield, New Jersey. The day turned out wonderful as the athletes played games, grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, and socialized with one another.

**ROSELLE AVENUE GROUP HOME HAPPENINGS....**

Submitted by: JoAnn Brown, RLS

February 28th was a very special day for the ladies at Roselle. A birthday party was held for Julie Taylor, Vicky Dickman, and Debbie Strong. They invited seven fellows from Woodbine Developmental Center and what fun they had. The home was full of balloons, streamers, and a lot of excitement.

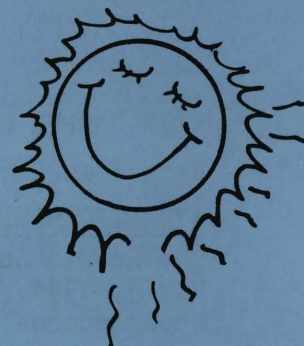
The ladies and gentlemen enjoyed a wonderful dinner, dancing and socializing. The gentlemen also presented each lady with a long stem rose before leaving.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this a night to remember.

WEST CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

By: Connie Ortega, Supervisor of West Campus Recreation

"Success doesn't come to you...you go to it."
Marva Collins



On March 15, 1991, we hosted our campus St. Patrick's Party. The party was complete from the wearing of the "green" to finding a pot of gold hidden under a chair by our own leprechauns. There were games, prizes, dancing, and refreshments.

The partying didn't stop there. The Easter Bunny hopped on to the West Campus and decorated the gym and delivered candy for all the cottages. On March 27, Recreation hosted a campus Easter Party with plenty of games, music, prizes, and refreshments.

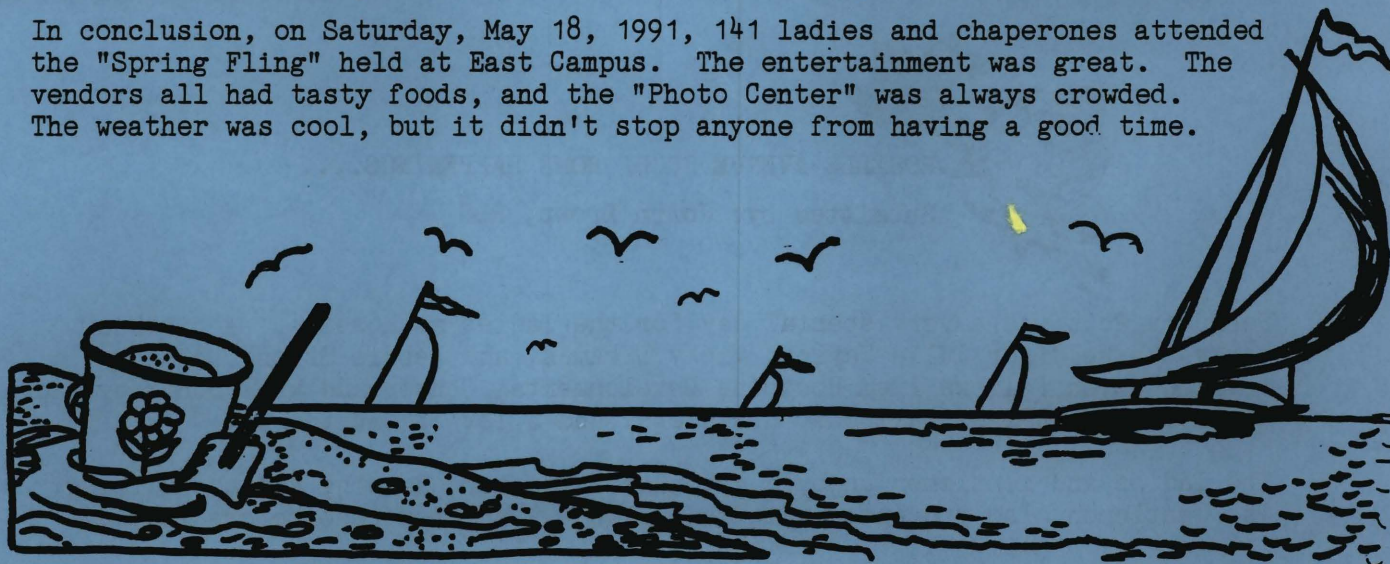
Other social events caught our department up in a whirl of activities. Our ladies traveled to New Lisbon Developmental Center for an evening of dancing and socializing on March 14 and April 18, 1991. The Musicians' Union visited the West Campus on April 25, 1991 and presented our ladies with an evening of musical entertainment.

I'm proud to announce that on Sunday, April 28, 1991, three of our ladies, Ms. L. Duddy, Ms. M. Body, and Ms. F. Rogozinski, walked 6 miles for the March of Dimes Fund Raiser along with Mrs. Paula Ramsey and Ms. Joan Lockwood.

On Saturday, May 4, 1991, the Art of the Dance Studio performed in the West Campus Learning Center for our ladies from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Everyone in attendance had a great time.

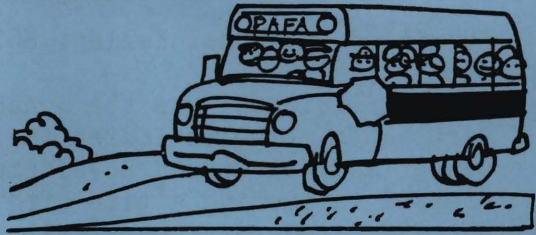
May 15, 1991 was National Employee Health and Fitness Day. West Campus Recreation hosted a fitness walk and exercise led by Ms. Joan Lockwood, Physical Education Teacher. Ms. Lucy Lawrinenko, Grisco Cottage Nurse, was on hand to take pulse rates. There were healthy refreshments served.

In conclusion, on Saturday, May 18, 1991, 141 ladies and chaperones attended the "Spring Fling" held at East Campus. The entertainment was great. The vendors all had tasty foods, and the "Photo Center" was always crowded. The weather was cool, but it didn't stop anyone from having a good time.



SPRING ACTIVITIES IN HARPER.....**Submitted by: Cheryl Hyson**

Harper has been a partying place starting with our monthly birthday parties for our ladies, including cake, ice cream and of course, the opening of presents.



As spring approached, we planted seeds and saw new beginnings as the flowers began to grow. They were then transplanted in a rock garden out front of Harper for all to enjoy.

Easter was also made very enjoyable with many days of events including egg hunts, egg decorating, and the ladies receiving their personal baskets. The Easter Bunny even took the time to find individual items that each person could enjoy.

With the approach of summer, everyone is looking forward to pool activities, picnics, and the annual cottage trip to Great Adventure.

**Greetings from Grisco****Submitted by: Richard H. Doughty, Jr., BMPT**

Spring was celebrated in a big way as the ladies and staff of Grisco Cottage all pitched in to build a huge Easter basket. There were painted Easter eggs with everyone's name on them. Pam Moore, Beth Williams, LaDonna Henley and many others hung up the Easter eggs. Everyone had a blast decorating the cottage.

Well, Easter passed and we all were wondering what to do with the Easter basket. Then, a little genie appeared and said, "Let me make your wishes come true," and poof, the Easter basket turned into a wishing well. So, with our new wishing well, we were in the pink with all our wishes coming true.

The Grisco ladies have been taking full advantage of the 90 degree weather in May and June, spending many hours of pleasure outdoors. Many of our women have been taking walks, playing on the swings and playing basketball. Sharon Eilberg is our star dunk champion (Michael Jordon beware) on our six foot rim.

Enjoy the Summer!

Prom Time in Donahue Cottage

Submitted by: Ethel Kelley, HCTS

"From a Distance" was the Donahue Cottage prom theme held on Friday, April 26th. Twelve ladies invited guest from Woodbine Developmental Center and New Lisbon Developmental Center. All of the ladies were dressed in evening attire with matching accessories. The cottage was decorated very beautifully in pink and white. The banner on the wall was designed in pink and gold with the theme.

The day started with welcoming our guests with hors-d'oeuvres and punch. It was then time for crowning the King and Queen of the prom. First runner up couple was Mildred Stanley and Mr. Oliver from Woodbine Developmental Center. Ms. Pamela Baker was crowned Queen by her mother Mrs. Willie Baker. Mr. Carol from Woodbine Developmental Center was crowned King.

After a luncheon of Chinese delicacies, the ladies and their guests enjoyed musical games and dancing provided by Mrs. Paula Ramsey.

We would like to thank the entire Central Recreation for their assistance with the music, judging the contest, and providing a video tape of the evening's festivities.

A special thanks to Mrs. Sandra Bailey and Gertrude Riley for coordinating this event, and, to all who helped to make our "From a Distance" prom such a success.

"The secret of joy in work is contained in one word --- excellence.
To know how to do something well is to enjoy it."

Pearl Buck



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

The "VDC News" will continue to be published quarterly. The issues are released during the months of March, June, September and December. Please feel free to submit articles on innovative programs and projects by the 20th day of the previous month. We will be glad to share the news and support your efforts.

Carole M. Braida, Editor
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