

Finches find home at Sunshine

Fifteen finches of various species have found a new home in the bird aviary recently installed in the Children's Home bus lobby.

The aviary, which is 6 1/2 feet tall, 3 feet deep and 8 feet long, is filled with mock nests, foliage and perches for our new feathered friends.

According to **Amy Fifer**, animal activities coordinator for Sunshine Acres, the hope is that baby birds will eventually be hatched in the aviary. Amy and program assistant **Lexi Welker** will feed and care for the finches as part of the animal activities program.

The aviary was purchased with funds raised through the annual Walk with Sunshine held the second Saturday in September at Monclova Elementary School.



Donald Thomas takes a break from his responsibilities to check out the new aviary located in the bus lobby at Sunshine Children's Home.

Spot Light is published monthly for the employees of Sunshine Inc. of NW Ohio. Story ideas and suggestions should be forwarded to Kelly Fritz Garrow, editor, at kellyfg@sunshineincnwo.com.

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Orders now being taken for Sunshine clothing

The employee recognition committee is now taking orders for new Sunshine logowear clothing. Extra copies of the order form are available in the development office and in human resources. The deadline for placing orders is Monday, May 3. All orders should be turned in to **Peggy Mikkelsen** in the development office. **Payment must accompany each order.** Checks should be made payable to Sunshine Foundation. Contact the development office with questions.

Jill Miller is Sunshine's March Employee of the Month

Jill Miller has worked in Castle Square for two years. The most noteworthy thing about Jill is her cheerful disposition. She bubbles over with enthusiasm and good will, whether it is directed to a resident or her coworkers.

Jill is frequently asked to help with training new staff because of her high standard of care and her ability to help new staff get to know the individuals-- what soothes them, what makes them smile and what works effectively to motivate them.

Jill is always thinking of ways to make the room run more smoothly. She takes an active role in discussions during room meetings. When she sees a need to confront a coworker she has a knack for making her point in a genuinely supportive way.



Jill Miller is frequently asked to train new staff because of her high standard of care and rapport with residents.

Jill should also be commended for working very hard at understanding the program objectives and improving the accuracy of her documentation. Jill is a conscientious worker and seeks to bring the Castle team together to better serve the individuals who live there. Congratulations Jill, on being chosen March's Employee of the Month!

Brenneman FCH experiences random act of kindness

Brenneman Family Care Home recently experienced a random act of kindness while dining out at the Pizza Hut in Lima, Ohio. The seven women residents and two staff members were in the restaurant with only one other couple.

Patti Metzger, Brenneman FCH supervisor, noticed that when the couple went to the cash register to pay for their meal they began talking to the manager and looking at their group. After a brief discussion, the husband smiled and shook the manager's hand.

Patti had a sneaking suspicion that the couple had paid their bill. When they went to the register to pay, the manager told them that the couple had indeed paid their \$60 bill. Patti said they had no contact with the couple, but the incident left everyone with a good feeling.

She calls the Lima area a "receptive community" to people with disabilities. "People often help open doors, smile at residents and make comments about our girls being cute," Patti said. "Last year when I was with a resident at the Dollar Tree store, someone gave her \$5."

Conference Slated

Sunshine will be co-sponsoring a conference with Rehab Dynamics, Inc. on May 7-8, 2004. The seminar is presented by Bonnie Hanschu, OT. Bonnie is nationally recognized for her use of sensory approaches to significantly improve the lives of people with mild learning problems or severe disabilities.

The course, titled "Autism--Creating Sensory Environments" will be held at the UAW Hall Region 2B, 1691 Woodlands Dr., in Maumee. The intended audience consists of parents, special education teachers, OT's, PT's, speech therapists, school psychologists and care staff. Individuals who work with children or adults who have autism or similar conditions, especially where challenging behaviors are a concern, will find this course beneficial.

For further information contact **Lori Ciacelli** at x3610. Registrations are also being taken online at www.atready.com.

Gold Coin Sightings

Apparently, the famous Sunshine gold coins are all missing in action as no new gold coin sightings were reported in April. See **Theresa Steinline** in clinical services if you need a gold coin to give to someone who is doing a great job.



Development Corner - Summer is Fundraising Season

Late spring through early fall is fundraising season for the development office at Sunshine. Several fundraising events have been/will be held in the next few months. All of these events are open to the public and Sunshine staff members and clients are invited to attend.

Messengers Concert

The Messengers, a popular local gospel quartet that has not performed together publicly for nearly 20 years, held a benefit concert for Sunshine at Crossroads Evangelical Church in Wauseon on April 18. Nearly 500 people were in attendance and a total of \$5,700 was raised. That money will be used as seed money for the Black Swamp Benefit Bazaar and Quilt Auction to help pay expenses.



O-I Quilt Display

The annual Quilting for Black Swamp display will take place May 5 through May 31 at the O-I Gallery, One Seagate, in downtown Toledo. The exhibit is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily and admission is free. Approximately 33 beautiful quilts that have been handmade by Mennonite and Amish

groups, individual quilters and quilt guilds will be on display. All quilts on display will be sold at the Black Swamp Benefit Bazaar and Quilt Auction on June 18-19 at the Fulton County fairgrounds in Wauseon. Proceeds will be split between Sunshine Inc. and Mennonite Central Committee.



This AIDS memorial quilt will be on display at the O-I Building from May 10-19 and then auctioned at Black Swamp June 18-19.

large children's activities area, homemade food and live entertainment. All staff and residents are encouraged to attend.

Hair Raising Event

Mark your calendars for June 26 to attend a new fundraising event on Dussel Drive in Maumee presented by Al and Tami Luna at United We Style, 580 W. Dussel Drive. "Sunshine Splash" will feature hair cuts for a free will donation, food, and entertainment to benefit the pool renovations at the Children's Home. Activities will run from noon to 5 p.m.

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Is this your car exiting the Sunshine parking lot?



If it is, you need to SLOW DOWN! **Barb Robinson**, human resources manager, reports that speeding cars and reckless driving remain a problem in the parking lot at the Children's Home. All employees are reminded to observe the posted stop signs in the parking lot and at the exits and to watch closely for pedestrians. Barb reports that there have been some close calls lately.

Surveillance cameras have been installed in the parking lot and still pictures of speeding cars can be taken. Disciplinary procedures will be taken against those who are caught speeding. Please, for everyone's safety, just take a few extra seconds to slow down and watch out for your fellow staff members and clients.

**The true meaning
of life
is to plant trees,
under whose shade
you do not expect
to sit.**

-Nelson Henderson

Birthdays and Anniversaries

May 2004

May Birthdays

- 1 Stacey Beem
- 3 Elizabeth Bakucz
Corie Mcknight
- 4 Dawn Marie Cornprobst
Sara Cowan
Monica Slovak
- 6 Rita Gurtzweiler
- 9 Rae Carag-Mati
Douglas Siebenaler
- 10 Stacie Eppard
- 11 Mae McDuffy
Terry McNair
Susan Reinhart
- 13 Christine Keran
Ronald Young
- 14 Laurie Payeff
Nicole Pothast
- 15 Donna Klavinger
- 16 San Juanita Cordero
- 17 Christopher Bohnsack
Elaine Smith
- 18 Stephanie Jones
- 19 Gary Brittenham
- 20 Ronda Sanders
Jackie Smith
- 21 Ann Marie Karmol
- 22 April Neville
Jacquelin Wolfe
- 24 Cheryl Brandt
Darby Noll
Sonya Perry
- 25 Carissa Ricica
- 26 Erin Brockman
Steve Maenle
Laura Sailer
Lora Stenzel
- 27 Kelly Marshall
- 28 Melissa Russell
- 30 Angela Bender
Mary Pavlov
- 31 Kristen Cichy
Tammy Floyd
Kendra Matheney
Randi Price



May Anniversaries

- 29 years
Ellen Belville
- 22 years
Mary Hayes
- 18 years
Ilva Nafziger
- 15 years
Lori Ciacelli
Linda Waters-Crawford
- 10 years
Bobbie Woods
- 8 years
Kim Goodell
Meshelle Lesner
Monica Slovak
Mary Stine
- 5 years
Terry McNair
- 4 years
Elizabeth Knell
Kathy Larabee
Julian Lippens
Dianna Meyers-Wilczynski
- 3 years
Kesha Blackmon
Michael Burk
Ethel Hayes
Rosalie McKimm
Lauren Powers
Laura Smith
Janine Stuart
- 2 years
Annette Brown
Cynthia Dzienny
Amy Fifer
Carolyn Hovey
- 1 year
Darryl Banks
Michele Boyd
Zebulun Collins
Lacy Hill
Becky Martinez
Angel Roberts
Anna Sexton
Dawn Walsh

Fundraising Events, continued

Fore the Vacation Fund

Adopt-A-Charity Golf Scrambles at Brandywine Country Club, Maumee, Ohio will be held the afternoon of July 6, 2004. Major sponsors for this fine, fun golfing benefit are: Brandywine Country Club, National City Bank, Key Bank, and Presstran Industries. Registration fees are \$400 per foursome or \$100 per individual golfer. Contact the development office at Sunshine for more details and opportunities for sponsorships. All proceeds benefit the resident vacation fund at Sunshine.

Updates and Kudos

Attention Fulton County Staff

Kelly Nagel, residential manager, would like to send out a special thanks to all the Fulton County staff that have been picking up extra hours during our short staff period. Your flexibility and helpfulness are really appreciated. You are doing a great job with our supported living clients!

Children's Home has Great Medicaid Survey

Steve Maenle, Children's Home program director, reports that Sunshine's recent Medicaid survey was about as close to perfect as any large ICFMR facility in the state has received this year. Surveyors noted the great condition of the building, how clean and well dressed our residents were and how delicious the food appeared. Nursing, direct care, clinical services and day programming also fared very well. Congratulations to all Children's Home employees for their hard work this past year.

Strayer has Perfect Medicaid Survey

Congratulations to Strayer Family Care Home on a perfect Medicaid survey this year. This is the 8th *consecutive year* that the Strayer home has had a perfect survey. Incredible! This is an outstanding accomplishment and demonstrates the quality staff, team leaders, supervisor and manager that this home has.