

DOVETAIL

A Publication of Peaceful Living

Volume 6 Issue 2 Fall 2009

Peaceful Living Mission: Creating Belonging for Persons with Disabilities Within the Faith Community

2009 in Review



Residents Occupied Jubilee House

On April 6, Peaceful Living's newly constructed group home on the grounds of Rockhill Mennonite Community (RMC) welcomed its first residents. Licensed for six individuals with disabilities, the home's setting on the campus of a continuing care retirement community offers the opportunity for residents' aging parents to relocate to RMC where they can easily visit with their children.

The project foundered numerous times over 12 years, due in part to the changing government vision for what type of living arrangements are desirable for people with disabilities. Dogged determination on the part of Joe Landis and the Parents Group ultimately led to the project's approval by state and local officials.

Jubilee House Event Honored Key Supporters

A June 4 Open House honored individuals who were instrumental in the long process of bringing the Jubilee House dream to fruition. In her remarks at the event, Pennsylvania Secretary of the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) said, "You worked hard, and it's a great model. You pulled off something others didn't think you could do."

Pictured left to right in photo are: Joe Landis, Executive Director, Peaceful Living; Jan Foderaro, Chair of the Board of Peaceful Living; the Honorable Estelle B. Richman, Secretary of the Pennsylvania DPW; State Representative Paul Clymer; Ron Sawatsky, CEO, Rockhill Mennonite Community; Wayne Clemens, Chairman of the Board of Rockhill Mennonite Community.



Photo at left: Bill Gaventa, M.Div., with Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities leads congregational leaders and friends in a version of the Lord's Prayer designed to be inclusive of people with disabilities.



Honoring a Place Initiative Celebrated Early Successes

Since Peaceful Living's September 2008 conference, *Honoring a Place for People with Disabilities and Their Families in Faith Communities*, seven congregations have been working toward greater inclusion with assistance from PL Congregational Coach Loretta Moyer.

In October, participating congregations came together to discuss early successes, to offer guidance to one another, and to receive encouragement from the staff of Peaceful Living and Bill Gaventa.

This two-year pilot program will culminate on September 25, 2010 at *Honoring a Place II*, where the congregations will share their results with a wide audience of faith community leaders from our region.

About Us

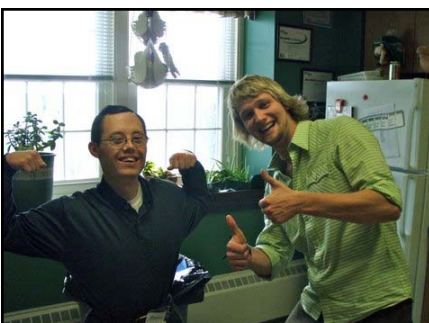
Faith-centered Peaceful Living works to build lifelong relationships for individuals with disabilities within congregations and the community. The organization provides in-home and community-based care and training. It also serves as an advocate for people

Role of International Volunteers Grew

Peaceful Living has hosted 10 International Service Volunteers since 2001. These young adults have allowed PL to expand its services and have been a joy to the people we serve and to their fellow staff members. Living with a local family provides an authentic perspective on American life and gives them a support network while they live here—usually for 12 to 24 months.

This year, we said farewell to Alex Lischinski of Germany, bottom left photo, who was hosted by Loretta and Larry Moyer, and Olesia Mikitina, bottom right photo, of the Ukraine, who was hosted by Linda and Vernon Martin. In August, we welcomed Maria Blazer and Fabian Czymek from Germany.

Host families are always in demand for these eager volunteers. To offer your home or for more information, contact Loretta Moyer, lorettamoyer@juno.com, 610.287.1200.



with disabilities and their families, offering education and consulting to congregations and respite services for family members to take an occasional break from care giving. The nine-year-old Harleysville-based nonprofit has grown from serving one person in 2000 to providing home-based supports for 40 families today. Peaceful Living operates 2 group homes. Its Friendship Connection program has matched 40 individuals with disabilities with caring friends in the community. Led by Executive Director Joe Landis, the organization serves residents of Montgomery and Berks Counties primarily. (please see other side)



Peaceful Living



40 Friendship Matches Made

Peaceful Living's *Friendship Connection* reached its 40th friendship pairing of a person with a disability with a friend in the community. For people whose only contact may be with a weary family member or a paid caregiver, the value of a freely reciprocated friendship cannot be overstated.

In a recent survey of participating individuals with disabilities, 100% of responders indicated that they plan to stay in the program and 90% would recommend it to friends.

Loretta Moyer directs this program and matches people based on common interests and location. New "friends" are being sought to connect with the 30 people currently on the waiting list. As little as one visit or outing per month makes a huge difference in the life of a person with a disability as well as in the life of his/her new friend. For further information, contact Loretta Moyer, 610.287.1200, lorettamoyer@juno.com.

Pictured below: Creative Gifts participant James works on a painting with Maria, one of the new international volunteers from Germany.



Dear Friend of Peaceful Living,

Fall 2009

This is a time of year when we tend to reflect upon the many blessings we enjoy – good health, a loving family, material comforts, to name but a few. In addition, we may be fortunate enough to spend time with dear friends over the holiday season.

Can you even imagine a life without friends? It feels like friends should be a "given" in life, doesn't it? **Sadly, many people with disabilities experience lives devoid of friendship.** Peaceful Living is working every day to change that through its Friendship Connection and Congregational Coaching programs.

Through the Friendship Connection, **40 friendship matches have been made** between a person with a disability and a caring community member. **30 individuals remain on the waiting list today.** As part of the Congregational Coaching pilot program, **seven congregations are working diligently to increase the sense of inclusion** in the faith community for people with disabilities and their families. **Friendships occur naturally in faith communities** when the leadership makes inclusion a priority.

Raising the modest amount of \$35,000 will allow us to continue to meet the needs of individuals in our community. With your generous assistance, we will be able to:

- Match the 30 people on our **Friendship Connection** waiting list with friends in the community – While the friends volunteer their time, finding and maintaining the friendships requires a dedicated employee and administrative support.
- Move ahead our **Creative Gifts** Program so that people with disabilities can explore talents that may either provide income for them or, just as importantly, add to their enjoyment of life.
- Continuing our work with the seven faith communities taking part in the **Congregational Coaching** pilot program that will culminate with their sharing of successes, obstacles, and experiences at the 2010 *Honoring a Place II* conference on September 25.

It is apparent that everyone needs attention to body, mind, and spirit to feel whole. **Will you help to enrich the lives of people with disabilities and their families by supporting the holistic approach of Peaceful Living?**

In Christ's love,

Janet Foderaro
Board Chair

Creative Gifts Program Found New Home

On November 1, The Creative Gifts Program relocated to 99 Allentown Rd. in Elroy. Currently serving two individuals with disabilities, Creative Gifts is in need of donations to renovate and furnish the space. Funds are also needed for instructors and art supplies.

One parent said recently of the program, "Thank you very much for allowing Tracey to be a part of ...Creative Gifts. She is flourishing & doing so well."

For more information about this program, please contact Elizabeth Howes, elily@peacefulliving.org, or call 610.287.1200.

Save the Dates!

*Honoring a Place II:
Telling the Stories of Lives Improved*

September 24-26, 2010

- Sept. 24 – Program for Caregiving Professionals
- Sept. 25 – Program for Congregational Leaders & Families
- Sept. 26 – Sunday School & Sermon by Keynote Speaker Hans Reinders, world renowned ethicist

"From the fullness of grace we have all received one blessing after another."-John 1:16

Detach Here

I/we want to help people with disabilities live satisfying lives in our community. Please accept my/our gift in the amount of

_____ \$1,000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ Other

Donor's Name(s)

Email

Mailing Address

City

State

ZIP

Phone Number

Company Name, If Any

Please make checks payable to **Peaceful Living** and mail checks to: 2210 Shelly Road, Suite 2, Harleysville, PA 19438
Phone 610.287.1200 • Fax 610.287.1201 • Website www.peacefulliving.org

Peaceful Living is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. The official registration and financial information of Peaceful Living maybe obtained by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Gifts are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

Thank you for your support!