



New Horizons Foundation Celebrates Its 28th Annual Invitational Golf Tournament!

The New Horizons Foundation's Invitational Golf Tournament was held on Monday, May 9th at Dutchess Golf & Country Club. This year 115 golfers helped celebrate our 28th Annual Tournament and enjoyed sunny skies and a wonderful day of golf.

Serving as our largest fundraiser of the year, support generated from this event helps to provide increased services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

A heartfelt thank you to all wonderful volunteers & helpers, committee members and the countless others who helped in every way to make this event such a great success!

More on pages 10-11



A Note From the Executive Director....

NY Times Investigation of Abuse

by Regis Obijiski

The investigative report in the *New York Times* ("At State-Run Homes, Abuse with Impunity", Mar13) represents a small percentage of the services that occur each day under the aegis OPWDD, but the extreme behaviors highlighted in the report are sadly moving and will lead to generalized negative judgment of group homes by many.

This report focused on 2,000 State-operated group homes, and the reporter specifically investigated hundreds of cases where "employees who sexually abused, beat, taunted residents were rarely fired, even after repeated offenses, and in many cases, were simply transferred to other group homes operated by the State." The report further explained that the Governor, when learning of the findings, forced the resignations of the heads of NYS OPWDD and NYS CQCAPD.

Appropriately, public and professional responses have been horror at the behavior and the disgust with the responses. The strength of these emotions is now driving us to seek both

immediate corrections and reach for long-term remedial solutions.

Besides the obvious need for tighter supervision and tougher responses to offenses of mistreatment, we have been presented an opportunity to view the entire OPWDD service system—public and private—from two vantage points: one that is detached, retributive and reactive to the relative inaction of the recorded abuse charges; another is ground-level, problem solving and enduring. Examples of the former are all around us; the latter requires more effort and a deeper commitment.

Quality of services is not defined in policy manuals or in regulation. Rather, quality is defined at the point of service—at ground level. *The New York Times* article made that amply clear. Direct support professionals, frontline staff, direct care, therapeutic aides—there are many titles—define or translate the rhetoric of quality where it happens. Reform must occur precisely at this level.

To cut hair or inspect a vehicle requires a license.



The NHR Newsletter is a quarterly publication produced by the agency to keep our friends informed about NHR's current activities.

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Regis Obijiski, *Executive Director*

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To provide a range of community services to children and adults with disabilities who would otherwise languish or even perish without them requires no license, no certification, no nationally or internationally validated trainings. Until New York moves beyond minimum standard trainings to a competency-based certified credential, the performance by direct support personnel will hinge on organizational standards, personal motivation and luck.

The time to adopt and implement a voluntary direct support competency-based credential that also requires a demonstrated proficiency in ethics throughout the practice is now. New York State does not have to create such a program. It already exists. The National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (www.NADSP.org) offers a Code of Ethics and a credentialing program of this nature. In addition, NADSP and ANCOR spent the past two years working with the U.S. Department of Labor to develop the newly certified standards for a Direct Support Professional Apprenticeship program. Neither is a time-based, classroom tested program. Rather, both have a competency-based nationally validated curriculum that is field tested, and the competencies in both are proven through an independently scored portfolio that demonstrate real-life, real-person outcomes.

Begin ground-level reform in both sectors of the OPWDD system by adopting such programs that are voluntary and piloted in several regions of NYS. Because the NYS Civil Service structures tend to take a longer period of time to accommodate to change, I recommend beginning in the private sector that composes 75-80% of the workforce, and offering opportunities to public sector DSPs to participate in private sector training.

The tools are there. Direct support education and training pockets of excellence already exist in many parts of our State. These kinds of opportunities should be supported and paid for by OPWDD and not left to random choice within the field. Preparing our ground-level, quality-defining personnel in this manner does not guarantee 100% integrity, ethical behavior and competency but it raises the bar of quality at the point of service in a way that merits a policy and financial commitment by New York State.



Music Concert At NHR



On Monday, May 16th an Interactive Concert was held at New Horizons, led by singers from the Institute For Music & Health's Sing Out! Reach Out! Program. A crowd of over 85 people enjoyed listening to popular hits such as, "Yesterday", sang by Michael Brenner. Sorry you missed it? Check out a sample of the concert on IMH's website, <http://musichealth.net/2011/so-many-smiling-faces-interactive-concert-a-big-success>.



Can You Spell "Bouquiniste"?

Congratulations to Melinda Riggs and Sally Heilman for making it to the finals in this year's Spelling Bee, put on by Literacy Connections. Regis Obijiski was a pronouncer at the event. A special thank you to Rita McPeck, Fran Reinstein and the team at KeyBank for their continued sponsorship of our spelling team and support of our Agency!

AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

Neil Rosenthal Wins Award *by Mary Quick*

Neil has been chosen to be the recipient of the 2011 Volunteer of the Year award at Benedictine Hospital! He was awarded with a trophy during a ceremony that was held on March 22nd at Benedictine hospital.

Neil's nomination said the following:

"Neil, you have been volunteering at Benedictine Hospital since 1996, more than 14 years now. This means that you have volunteered 1,359 hours of your time to the hospital. It also means according to some official formula that your service has saved Benedictine approximately \$28,000!

Your friendliness has brought smiles to patients and staff alike. With your good friend, Shirley Crispino, the two of you are a great team. I understand that most recently you have been visiting patients and delivering magazines to them. That is an important out reach for the hospital and we are glad you are here to do it.

Our patients will quickly pick up your very positive attitude and enthusiasm for the roles you take on as volunteer. Your good nature, Neil, is part of our overall healing environment, for which you must feel very proud. I understand your contributions were recognized and you received an award for your Outstanding Dedication and Service.

Not only do you offer respect to us all, Neil, but you also respect the earth. You and Shirley have been real competitors when it comes to Planting Day. Your corner plot near the archway has won several awards and is testimony to your commitment to a task and to the pride you take in what you can accomplish.

You are a peaceful, kind and happy presence for all of us, Neil, whether we be patient or staff or volunteer. It is an honor to present you with a Mission Award this year."

KUDOS TO NEIL!!!!



Susan Greenidge Newest DSP-C

After much hard work and patience in waiting for the scoring she has prevailed.

A DSP-C is a certified, credentialed Direct Support Professional who has completed two years of study and demonstrated proficiencies in an expanded portfolio of accomplishments. NHR is, so far, the only agency in New York State that has several DSP-C's. Susan is our 8th DSP to become nationally recognized! Well done! Congratulations Susan!

Sign up to start receiving NHR's Quarterly Newsletter
Electronically by emailing info@nhrny.org

AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

CQL Corner: The First Two Areas Covered in a Person Outcome Interview

By Monica Robinson

In the years to come, every individual we support will have the opportunity to participate in CQL, Personal Outcome, interviews. It will help provide us with valuable information about that individual's self, world and dreams. All together there will be twenty one areas discussed in the interviews.

The first two areas covered in an interview are connections to natural supports and having intimate relationships. When we talk about natural supports, individuals will be able to share information about people they can really count on and people they talk to during good times and bad. They will be asked about any lost connections and whether or not they would like to reconnect with those who are important to them. Individuals will then be able to conclude their discussion with whether or not they feel they have enough natural supports.



Questions covered in the area of intimate relationships include, who they are closest to, who do they share their feelings with and is it enough for them. We will discover that intimacy means different things to different people. One person may see intimacy as having a girlfriend or boyfriend, while someone else sees it as having a best friend. Again, the discussion will conclude with asking the individual if the relationship is enough or if they want more.

The answers received during these interviews may surprise some people, but they will be hugely beneficial to the fulfillment of individual's lives. It all starts here, ask the questions and you may be amazed with how much you discover.



New Horizons Foundation Annual Appeal 2011

The New Horizons Foundation Annual Appeal 2011 is currently underway. If you would like to contribute, please complete this form and return it with your tax-deductible donation payable to the New Horizons Foundation. We at NHR greatly appreciate your commitment to improving the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Phone & Email _____

"Hope is a state of mind, not of the world. Hope, in this deep and powerful sense, is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously heading for success, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good."

-Vaclav Havel

Please make checks payable to: *The New Horizons Foundation*, and mail to:

123 West Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

Donations to the Foundation are fully tax deductible.

AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

“Broadway” Kevin is Thirty

One hundred twenty celebrants, rhinestone-studded eyewear for all who dared, dazzling outfits for the occasion, live music, delectable food stations, an open bar and the main celebrant who turned thirty—what a party!

For Kevin Leonard (*pictured at right*), thirty was not an identity crisis but rather Christmas in springtime. For him the marker was as thrilling as the Muppets’ Thirty Year Special. A fan of the Muppets since he was a boy, Kevin could not wait until he turned thirty and have his own “Thirty Year Special” as fanciful as his fuzzy friends. That which started as a family gathering of thirty people at a local trattoria grew four-fold into a spectacle at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel, chandeliers and all. The grander the better, Kevin co-signed the banquet contract with Peter and Eileen, his parents, and began expanding the guest list.



The guests’ ages spanned eight months to eighty-eight years—the youngest cousin to the matriarch of the Leonard family, Kevin’s grandmother. In addition to aunts, uncles, cousins and sibs (Bridgett and Tim), he invited a broad spectrum of friends from the community and a substantial contingent of co-workers and staff from New Horizons. Before the main event, Kevin’s unique Broadway imitations of Carol Channing belting out show tunes and his extravagant recital of happy feet, there were a line of speakers: Connie Boyle, his first babysitter who confessed “I thought it wasn’t possible that he could be cuter than when he was brought home but he is”; Jeannie Yglesias, godmother who instructed us about Kevin’s penchant for “making a deeper and happier grove in our lives”; Liza Hoffman, first provider of community supports who publicly admitted that “I would never dress so over-the-top except for Kevin”; Maria Marewski who summarized the revelry of guests as “using Kevin as our window on to self-acceptance”; Monica Robinson, staff supervisor at Kevin’s New Horizons’ residence who proclaimed “I’m usually in jeans but I’m wearing this dress and these boots only because of Kevin”; music teacher Judith Muir who realized out loud that “Kevin is the best therapist because he knows how to make people feel better”; and Regis Obijiski, executive director at New Horizons who recounted Kevin having many teachers, but “you have taught us what complete self-acceptance looks like”. One greeting card Kevin received pictures a nonchalant-looking cat wrapped from head to toe in Mardi Gras beads. The cat’s attitude seemed to suggest: “you looking at me? That’s good.” Inside the card are the words: “Anything worth doing is worth over-doing.”



From left to right: Karen Coburn, Rose Palazzo, Kevin Leonard, Gordon Riggs (kneeling), Joe Parker, Tammy Dellacamera, and Steve Georgiou

The last gig at the gathering was a dazzling hip-hop performance by the City of Poughkeepsie’s own youth performers, the “Empower Dance Troupe”.

At the end, the one hundred twenty guests hung on every engaging, fun-loving, in-the-moment tidbit of life’s eloquence that Kevin could muster. We went to his party, entered his world, and glowed in his joy.

AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

Congratulations to **Julie Lopez (Administrative Counselor at Dover Plains)** for being selected as NHR's Employee of the Month in April!

Her nomination read: "I would like to nominate Julie Lopez for Employee of the Month. Julie is the Administrative Counselor at Dover Plains and she works tremendously hard to ensure that the ladies at Dover have fulfilling lives. For example, Julie has helped coordinate music classes for several folks.

Julie always comes to work with a smile on her face and an upbeat attitude. She exudes patience, compassion, and understanding.

She is always willing to flex her schedule to accommodate program needs. Her teams feels they can count on her for support, even in the most chaotic of times. Julie is never one to say "that's not my job." Rather, she says "let me do this, it makes the ladies' lives better."

Spotlight On...



Julie Lopez

Congratulations Kyro!



From left to right: Sandi Swan, Kyro Ojulo, Beth Cookinham and Brendon McGahan

Congratulations to NHF Board Member, Kyro Ojulo for being selected as one of Dutchess County's "Top 40 Under 40"!!!

Kyro joins past recipients from NHR, including: Peter Carr (NHF Board Member), Stephen J. Reverri, Jr. (NHF Board Member), Sean Jones (NHF Board Member), Sandi Swan (Director of Community Services), Brendon McGahan (Asst. Director of Human Resources), and Beth Cookinham (New Horizons Foundation Director).



Congratulations Rita!



From left to right: Michael, Rita, Cecilia and Kayleigh McPeck

Congratulations to NHF & NHR Board Member, Rita McPeck who was the recipient in April, along with John Fracasse of Orange County Trust, of the Community Leadership Award by the Alzheimer's Association at their 15th Annual Gala: A Night of Wine & Roses.

Rita is selfless with her time! When she isn't at work or at one of her daughter's softball games, you can find her lending her time to New Horizons, Alzheimer's Association, Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and Abilities First, just to name a few! Congratulations Rita!

AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

Horizon Suns

GO TO WEST POINT

By Lauren Hann

On April 30, 2011 twenty six athletes, three coaches and numerous staff attended the Special Olympics Spring Games competition at West Point Academy. Athletes participated in track and field events including running, walking, long jump, shot put, javelin, and wheelchair racing. The weather was beautiful and everyone enjoyed themselves. Each athlete was paired with a volunteer cadet who spent the day cheering them on and accompanying them to their events. The track was filled with laughter, smiles and proud moments of triumph as athletes were awarded their medals by cadets in uniform. Congratulations to all the athletes on a job well done. The practice and hard work that goes into preparing for this event is shown in the efforts at Competition. Also, a big thanks to all the staff who help make this event and others possible every year.



The Horizon Suns

AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

NHR Celebrates National Nurses Week!



NHR Nurses were celebrated during National Nurses Week with a Belgian Waffle Breakfast prepared by Associate Executive Director Bill Beattie and Nursing Coordinator Lauren Hann. The company and food were delightful. Thank you to a wonderful nursing team at NHR!

Fourth Annual Craft Fair



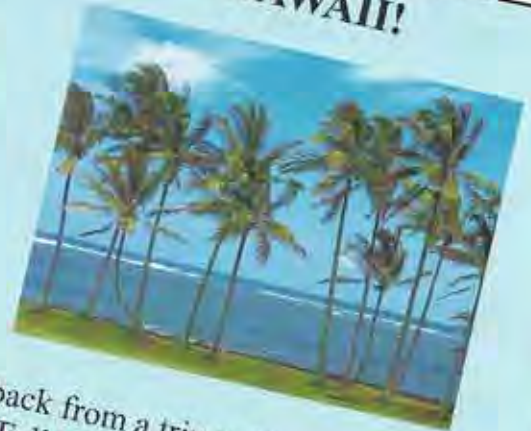
The James J. McCann Center at Marist College was the home to our 4th Annual Spring Juried Craft Show on March 19 & 20.

Thirty-six artisans from all over New York State gathered to sell handcrafted items including Pottery, Photography, Jewelry, Specialty Food and more.

A special thanks to NHF Board Member Tim Murray for his help each year with the show, Karen Castella and the entire crew at Harmon & Castella Printing for their donation of postcards and the countless volunteers who helped!

Trips of A Lifetime!

HAWAII!



Just back from a trip to Hawaii won at the NHF Fall Into Fashion Show, Nancy Dropkin said, "This island seems to be a golfer's paradise. Wish I golfed!" Nancy stayed in Kauai, Hawaii!

MASTERS!



Congratulations to Sue & Allan Abolafia who won NHF's Trip To The Masters Raffle. Sue took many chances in the raffle in hopes of giving her husband a truly unique birthday gift! They boarded a private jet and spent a night in Augusta and had a great time! Happy Birthday Allan!

Thank you to the Abolafias and Nancy Dropkin for their continued support of the New Horizons Foundation!

New Horizons Foundation's 28th Annual



Guest Speaker Bobbi Sue Tellitocci



And The Winners Are.....

1st Place:



From L to R:
Joe Ausanio,
Tim Murray,
Pat Lyons,
Don Harnum

2nd Place:



From L to R:
Joe Velletri,
Jack Cina,
Schyler Woods,
Jim Tyger

3rd Place:



From L to R:
Jim Doyle,
Kyle Westervelt,
Frank Lamberti,
George Decker

Long Drive: Vickie Fitzpatrick & Rich Kiggins

Closest To The Pin: Colin O'Brien



2011 Golf Committee

Co-Chairs: Sean Jones, Superior Wireless & Steve Reverri, Jr., Dutchess County Sheriff's Office
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Annual Invitational Golf Tournament

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Mission Statement:

The mission of New Horizons Resources, Inc. is to enable people with developmental disabilities to achieve fulfilling lives within their local communities by establishing a home, belonging, self-determination and respect.

Printed on  recycled paper

News from the Foundation Office Beth Cookinham, Foundation Director

SAVE THE DATES!

**New Horizons Foundation's
8th Annual
Fall Into Fashion Show**



**Thursday, October 6th, 2011
Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel
Poughkeepsie, NY**

**New Horizons Foundation's
17th Annual
Community Leadership Breakfast**

Honoring
**Anthony V. Campilii
Barbara & Stephen Lumb**

For their spirit, dedication and
leadership in fostering a better life for
all residents of the Hudson Valley.

Thursday, October 27, 2011 8:00 a.m.
Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel
Poughkeepsie, NY

\$40 per person
Charitable Contribution is \$15
Please RSVP by October 17th