

Male Models Take To The Runway..... and Steal The Show!



While the female models looked spectacular donning the latest fashions from Coldwater Creek, Crystal's Closet, Dress Barn, Elizabeth Boutique, Mary H. Abdo & You, Pleasant Valley Department Store & Up To Date, it was the male models who stole the show! John Evangelista, Matt Sherlach, Steve Hill and NHF Board Members Stephen J. Reverri, Jr. and Sean Jones were brave enough to be the first male models in the show's 8 year history, wearing clothes from The Pleasant Valley Department Store on October 6th at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel & Conference Center. The "guys" certainly weren't afraid of their first time on the runway and were an instant crowd pleaser!

Also new this year was a dramatic increase of hair and makeup artists! We are so grateful to Bella Luci Salon, East Coast Salon, Gallery Salon, Marion Salon Spa, Salon Verve, The Studio at Stephanie's Salon & Spa and Styles Hair Studio as well as Lisa Morris for MC'ing, Steve Georgiou and Joe Parker for DJ'ing, Jessica McKeown for Photography and everyone else who played a trivial part in putting this show together!

You won't want to miss next year's show on October 4, 2012– more male models and a new format ~ ninety minute cocktail hour and runway style seating!

More on the Fashion Show on page 10

A Note From the Executive Director....

The New York Times Should Probe Further

by Regis Obijiski

One of the most celebrated newspapers in the world has been excoriating the serious failures in New York State's services for people with developmental disabilities all year long. Is there any opportunity that our service system can grasp while being pummeled? Yes. We are being forced to return to our fundamental principles regarding the inherent worth of every human being and reconfigure our commitment to making civil rights come alive every day.

The New York Times has very appropriately pointed its forefinger to the definition of quality at the point of service instead of at policy and standards compliance. This newspaper has unearthed some rotten aspects of our service system and shoveled them into our faces. Is there anything left for them to do? Indeed, there is. We encourage them to examine very carefully our system's preparation of the direct support personnel who are at the heart of every single ugly incident they identify.

Danny Hakim and Russ Buettner, investigative reporters from *The New York Times*, published on NOV 5 another article in a series about abuse, systemic failure and unwarrantable deaths in

services licensed by the NYS Office For People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

Using the Freedom Of Information Law (FOIL), Hakim and Beuttner gained access to thousands of records from which they wrote "In State Care, 1200 Deaths and Few Answers." The deaths of persons with developmental disabilities they concentrated on in this recent investigation were the following: drowning in bathtubs, choking, and fires.

The New York Times secured data on 7,118 instances of death over the past decade. Next to "natural causes," the largest number of deaths in the service system are "unknown." The average age of these unexplained deaths was 40.

Critical of the system of service, *The New York Times* reporters pointed out that there are State agencies that track deaths and cannot even agree on the number of deaths in a given period of time. Further, trends of fatal incidents have not been identified so that the service system is required to pay closer attention to and receive training on prevention measures. New York State is deficient in learning and teaching lessons appropriate to



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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these experiences. There is “no uniform training for the nearly 100,000 workers at thousands of state and privately run homes.” In particular, there are glaring shortcomings in the training on safety standards.

OPWDD Commissioner Courtney Burke admitted to a “culture of non-reporting” and pledged to have better data on those deaths.

Examples cited by the reporters are:

- In 2005, a 41 year old man with quadriparalysis, requiring constant supervision while bathing, drowned because the direct support staff left him unattended for 15 minutes;
- Over the past 10 years, 222 persons with developmental disabilities choked to death while eating because staff did not take the proper precautions necessary to obviate these preventable deaths; and
- In 2009, four adults with developmental disabilities perished in a group home fire in the Adirondack town of Wells; the causes were lapses in fire safety.

The shocking realities of these incidents are indefensible. However, amassing better data, trending the incidents, and turning the system into an organization that learns from its mistakes and enforces reporting compliance are only small parts of the solution. The data, the regulations, and the standards compliance are only as effective as the direct support personnel evident in every one of those incidents.

There are three fundamental questions that need to be raised and answered. The first is obvious. The other two are not.

- Who is the target of 99 % of all abuse/neglect/mistreatment incidents? Direct support staff.
- Who are these people and what are their capabilities and their value?
- What do we want direct support staff to be?

Joseph Macbeth, executive director of the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP), in a letter to the editor of *The New York Times* reflects on the well-intentioned and under-prepared people who assume the challenging 24/7 responsibility of supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. NADSP, he asserts,

“strongly advocates for the training and credentialing program for direct care professionals build on universal skills and a code of ethics. Anything else will continue to fall short.”

OPWDD’s Commissioner Burke chaired a Talent Development Design Team that generated a comprehensive list of competencies that mirrors the NADSP Code of Ethics and the nationally validated Community Support Skills Standards. The resulting competencies are comprehensive and respectful of the breadth of responsibilities that a direct support staff member shoulders. The most recent draft composed by a panel of brilliant practitioners lists 25 competency areas, 62 related skills and 223 allied task statements. I dare say that any non-direct support professional in the field of developmental disabilities could not meet 75% of the stated expectations on their best day. The life and death demands of this job are enormous, the preparation is deficient, the assigned status of the position vastly understated, the accountability crushing and the compensation pitifully inadequate.

The credentialing of direct support staff must begin in earnest now in order to begin the remediation of the problems described in *The New York Times* and also in *The Poughkeepsie Journal*. If we value people with developmental disabilities as much as we claim, the leadership in the field of services and supports as well as State elected officials must fundamentally address who direct support staff are and incrementally introduce credentialing and ethical training for this position.



NHR Wins Award!

In honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, New Horizons Resources was recognized for our commitment to providing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities at the National Disability Employment Awareness Awards Ceremony on October 26, 2011 by the Mid-Hudson Employment Alliance and the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations to our fellow honorees!

Pictured at above are: Vicki Smith, Quincy Ferguson, Matt Rowlette, and Jamie Snider.

AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

Self-Advocacy Association of NYS and NHR Celebrates 25 Years of Advocacy *by Tom McCluskey*

In 1972, Geraldo Rivera entered Willowbrook, the largest institution in the world, with a camera and broadcast to the American people the deplorable conditions that people with disabilities endured. It's said that crisis presents opportunity, and the Willowbrook crisis helped create the Self-Advocacy Association of NYS (SANYS). Bernard Carabello was a resident of Willowbrook. In Geraldo's exposé, Bernard was interviewed. While at first it may be difficult to understand what Bernard is saying, it doesn't take long to understand he is intelligent and possesses keen insight. Bernard went on, with the help of others like Amy Bittinger, Duncan Whiteside, Mariette Bates, The Guggenheim Foundation, Harvey Pacht, and Michael Kennedy, to form the Self-Advocacy Association of NYS. They all came back on September 8th, 9th and 10th to celebrate the 25th anniversary. In his speech at the conference Bernard said he founded SANYS because, "I wanted to ensure everyone has a voice." SANYS has been successful as the voice of people receiving supports in NYS and is at the table in policy making forums.



Above, from left to right: David Liscomb (SANYS Past President), Jennifer Sucato, Darlene Albano, and Marie Moncure

New Horizons has a long history of being involved with SANYS through its local group, Speakout. Residents of Deer Run who were active members of Speakout advocated for the change of the agency name from New Horizons for the Retarded to New Horizons Resources back in the early 1990's. Just last year SANYS was successful in finally convincing NYS to do the same, removing the "R" word, hence the new name of the state agency, the Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Speakout was formed by Ann Hardiman, now Executive Director of NYSACRA. It is unique in that the group does not belong to one agency, as most other self-advocacy groups do, but rather, people who receive supports from a variety of agencies make up our membership. Beverly Kaufman and I have been advisors to Speakout for the last 20 plus years. Beverly is also an advisor to the SANYS' state board. Speakout meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the community room in the Poughkeepsie Galleria. Speakout has been twice recognized as NYS group of the year and NHR has been twice recognized as state agency of the year.

This year the SANYS conference was once again well attended by people with ties to NHR. People who live at Canal Path, Pinewood, Stormville, Albrecht and Jansen Road were in attendance. In addition to recognizing people from the SANYS past, we had the opportunity to meet Courtney Burke, Commissioner of OPWDD, Roger Bearden, Chair of the Commission on Quality Care and Advocacy for People with Disabilities and Clarence Sundram, Special Advisor to the Governor for Vulnerable People. The highlight of this year's conference for NHR may have been the recognition of the SANYS DSP of the year award. At the behest of Jennifer Sucato, Marie Moncure and Sylvia Goldman, Speakout nominated Darlene Albano, DSP at Pinewood and she won! She was humbled by the recognition and the ladies who nominated her were full of praise for the respectful way she supports them in their daily lives. They said that in addition to being flexible and taking them everywhere they want to go she is always there to listen and support them when they have concerns in their personal lives. Congratulations Darlene!

AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

Congratulations to Derea, who was selected as employee of the month in September. Her nomination said, “I recently began working in a different capacity at Thornwood, where Derea is the house’s RN. Words cannot express how supportive she has been. Derea would arrive at Thornwood every day in a “grand entrance” that only she could pull off, with her witty humor and compassionate heart. She has an ability to relate to each and every one of us, with patience and frank honesty. She also has the ability to confront difficult situations with ease and respect.

During our team’s transition, there were many times when Derea was more than an RN, with an amazing bedside manner. One such recollection was, as a few of us were discussing how to care for someone’s hair. Not only did Derea instruct us on how to provide specialized care for this person, but she also volunteered to take this person to store to purchase needed hair-care products—on her own time.

Yes, Derea Tracy Rice Johnson is an amazing RN, but she is so much more than that. She has never forgotten her time and experiences as a Direct Support Professional and it is so obvious how much she cares and respects the ladies of Thornwood.”

Spotlight On...



Derea Johnson

Friday Night at the Races

On Friday, August 12, a race car adorned with the NHR logo raced at Accord Speedway! The driver and car owner, Richard (RJ) Smith of RJ Smith Realty, raced the #4 car with NHR logos. Not only did RJ graciously offer to pay for the tickets of anyone NHR provides services for and accompanying staff but he also donated the front bumper of the car (pictured at right) to Deer Run. Many thanks to RJ Smith and to Roger Rascoe, a relief DSP at NHR, for coordinating this fun event!



Bernie Kosby, Steve Picciolo, Valerie French, and Jay Glass



Jonathan Gonzalez and Raymond Born



Bernie Kosby and Roger Rascoe



Tom Jordan and Todd Lehrer

AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

Larry Holden (1947-2011): Still With Us



“Larry was truly my friend and my teacher,” explained Don Peck. “He was my friend because he accepted me unconditionally, and he was my teacher because I wanted to imitate him and the philosophy he understood in his heart. He mastered some life’s greatest paradoxes; for example, ‘whatever you want out of life, give it away.’ Larry embraced and lived a life of love and harmony and, like a magnet, drew exactly that to himself. Another one of his un-verbalized practices was: ‘try to understand another person deep down and they will make an effort to understand you.’ The last six months of Larry’s life were difficult for him, but every single person at Tyrrel Road vied to be with him to make his burden easier.”

Larry Holden, a resident at our group home located at 81 Tyrrel Road in Pleasant Valley passed away on September 5th. A sweet man, Larry affected the lives of many people.

At the funeral, Patti Duggan struggled to share these sentiments: “no man—and I told this to my boyfriend many times—ever touched my life the way Larry did. One little hug, one gentle reassuring touch on my shoulder seemed to come from a place deep inside of him and went right through me, and I thought ‘God, I’m good for another week.’”

Vickie Fitzpatrick confided that “I used to think chivalry was dead until I met Larry. If he walked with you, you were not allowed to open any doors without his assistance. I doubt that they made shining armor as small as he, but he was my knight.”

“He was a one-of-a-kind lover—the kind who shows his love with respect, kindness, and pure joy,” shared Amy Budd.

“This is going to sound trite,” warned Jason Sealy, “but the world would be a much better place with more Larry’s. His lessons give us a lot to live up to.”

“That’s the truth,” agrees Marcus Sierra. “My thoughts of him are not as a sick person who declined in health for many months but as a vibrant person who gently claimed the best qualities of a life well-lived.”

Shawne Eato-Roberson was quick with: “It’s the attitude that always makes the difference between what you do and who you are, but I wouldn’t describe Larry by his attitude—something you really have to work on. He was better than that. He had a developed gift of good spirits, and that made him a beautiful person.”

Pastor Mark and Pastor Steve from the Odyssey Church—Larry’s church—in their remarks at the funeral said “we often use the term ‘angel’ loosely, but Larry was, indeed, an angel among us.”

Larry Holden, 64, died September 5, 2011 at his New Horizons’ home surrounded by his loving family and friends. Larry was born May 12, 1947 in Margaretville, NY the son of the late Herbert Holden and Genevieve Delameter.

Larry worked for Abilities First, Inc., out of Poughkeepsie as an assembler. He was also a very proud member of the Boy Scouts and an accomplished athlete in the [Special Olympics](#). He won the outstanding achievement award in 1985 from the Elks #285 in the Special Olympics. Larry was also very proud of his multiple certificates of achievement he earned through the Dutchess County BOCES. Larry is survived by his loving Sister Arlene Cobb and her husband Eddie of Poughkeepsie, NY, his close friend Don Peck and his extended friends and family at New Horizons.

AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

Happy 90th Birthday, Marie!



Happy 90th Birthday to Marie Cain, who celebrated her birthday with friends and family on Saturday, October 22. Marie looked beautiful and enjoyed her special day and her party, given to her by the staff at Thornwood.

Marie proudly showed her family her home, enjoyed great friends and food, and of course....celebrated with cake and presents. Marie loved her presents, enjoyed chocolate cake, and was even serenaded by Pearl (who could not wait to sing "You are My Sunshine.") But the biggest surprise of all, was the gifts of love. Her family had childhood pictures located (in Wisconsin) restored and framed, which she proudly has displayed in her bedroom.

BOO!

By John Clausson

I wanted to thank everyone for making this year's Halloween Dance Party such a HUGE success. Without all of your help, there is No way this could have been so much fun!

A special thanks to Linda, Jenn and Sabrina for decorating, Bill for his amazing cake, all the people who gave a hand throughout the night including Fran, Nancy, Cherity, DJ Steve for keeping us dancing and everyone who pitched in to make this the best dance yet!



AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

Summer Camp 2011

by Rachael Oliver

Summer camp at New Horizon’s Briggs Farm gives both employees and campers a very different experience than a “typical” summer camp. My experience as an employee for our camp was much different than that of other summer camps I have worked for. The unique relationships that are formed with the campers at Briggs is much more of a friendship and bond than that formed with the campers at a “typical” summer camp.

Not only is Briggs Farm summer camp fun for the campers, it is also fun for the staff. We did activities such as horse back riding, swimming, Zoom Flume and my favorite - Balawick Ranch. All these activities gave the campers a chance to try something new whether it was riding a horse for the first time or feeding kangaroos at the ranch. I enjoyed the experience of working at camp because I saw that it was a great opportunity for the children that they wouldn’t be able to get at another camp.



Izel Seay

Briggs Farm summer camp is an important program that is unique to New Horizons. It provides a community-based summer camp which provides an opportunity for the guests to become integrated members of their community. It is a great opportunities for families to get the respite and appropriate care for their children and for their children to get very unique and fun learning opportunities through many different activities.



From Left To Right: Rachel Rose, Michael Ermo, Max Nadel, Maya Irby, Tori Smith & Victoria Iacobellis



Back row, from left to right: Felecia Green, Kayla Naccarato, Rose Dent, Giancarlo Ballon-Ribaudo, Anthony Collagen, Amber Rennie, Bridget Murphy, Laura Clarke, Gerry Funk ; **Front row, from left to right:** John Claussion, Rachel Rose, Zach Hildebrandt, Max Nadel, Sarah LePerch, Michael Ermo

AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

2011 Picnic a Success!

by Lauren Hann

New Horizons' Annual Picnic took place on August 26th at the Green Haven Pavilion in Stormville. This year's theme was a Hawaiian Luau! Activities included dancing, spin art, face painting, and an assortment of games. Grass skirts, flower leis and Hawaiian shirts adorned the guests at the picnic this year. A great time was had by all who attended.

A special thanks goes out to the picnic committee and the numerous volunteers who assisted with cooking, decorating, set up and clean up. It is everyone's combined efforts that make this event happen every year!



Brenda Shaw, Jennifer Hall, and Sharon Wong



Chico Otero and Shonta Spencer-Morgan



Kate Nugent and Adam Perks



Heather Atkins and Michael McGill



Raymond Njunge and Matt Rowlette



Robbyne Duck, Doreen Brown, and Ines Cella



Beth Cookinham and Regis Obijiski



Luz Rivera and Joe Parker



Andrew Vivanti, Timothy Sweeney, Anthony Palazzo, and Joe Devito

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Salon Verve'
Jerilynne Smith
Studio At Stephanie's Salon & Spa
Superior Wireless
Tacinelli Hardwood Flooring
Kelly Traver
Treat Your Feet
Up To Date
Valley Wine & Spirits
Vivian Photography
Jennifer Wells
Janna Whearty



From Left to Right: Elena Rios, Jennifer Sucato, Christina Rios & Jenn Wells, Marion Morris of Marion Salon Spa and Sharon Gyurits, Banana Republic Volunteers Courtney Lyons, Dana Jordan and Bianca Bossbaly with Karen Ditomasso. Second Row: Heather Atkins with Joe Parker, Brittney from Salon Verve with Christina Rios, Todd Lehrer, Tim Sweeney and Bill Habekost, an autographed Madonna Jacket from the 2006 VMA's up for bid and Jessica Linell and Brittney Samson from Stephanie's Salon Spa with Rachael Oliver.

17th Annual Community Leadership Breakfast!



The 17th Annual Community Leadership Breakfast was held on Thursday, October 27th at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel and Conference Center. This year's honorees are Barbara & Stephen Lumb and Tony Campilii and were chosen by past recipients of this award.

This award is presented annually to individuals for their spirit, dedication and leadership in fostering a better life for all residents of the Hudson Valley.

The Lumbs & Tony Campilii have all dedicated their time and talents to many wonderful organizations in our area. If you would like to read their bios, please visit our website.

Many thanks to our sponsors!

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Above From Left to Right: Donna Reyer of Cablevision News interviews honoree Stephen Lumb, NHF Board President Roderick MacLeod, NHR Executive Director Regis Obijiski, NHF Director Beth Cookinham, Honorees Tony Campilii & Stephen Lumb. **Lower Photo:** Regis Obijiski poses with past honorees Roderick MacLeod, Larry Hughes, F. Kennon Moody, Daniel Hickey, Sr., Eleanor & Martin Chartwat, Lisa Morris, Owen T. Clarke, Jr. and Timmian Massie. Seated: Stephen Lumb, Lorraine Roberts, Marie Tarver, Kathy Tallman, Mary Moody, Jackie Chatfield, Tony Campilii and George Decker.



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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.

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News from the Foundation Office Beth Cookinham, Foundation Director

SAVE THE DATES.....

**New Horizons Foundation's
5th Annual Juried
Craft Show**

**March 17 & 18, 2012
James J. McCann Center
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601**

Come see the best crafts the Hudson Valley has to offer! Jewelry, Photography, Pottery, Silks and more!

Call the Foundation Office or visit our website for more information.

**New Horizons Foundation's
29th Annual
Invitational Golf Tournament**



**Monday, May 14, 2012
Dutchess Golf & Country Club
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601**

Call the Foundation Office or visit our website for more information. Join our committee!

**The Institute For Music And Health
announces its**

Happy Holidays Interactive Concert

Monday, December 5th /7-8pm/\$5per person
New Horizons Training & Administrative Bldg.

For more information, call them at 677-5871

