

2012 Summer Camp!

by Kassidy Sedore

Growing up with relatives who preceded me in this work, I had always wanted to work at New Horizons. When I was finally old enough, I applied to be a Direct Support Professional. I was no longer twelve years old begging staff in charge to let me work summer camp. The June 2012 summer camp was my first time working the full week of camp and I was extremely excited! I was just as excited as the children enrolled, if not more! As the little ones arrived, many couldn't wait to start the day. They were dashing to go play on the playground before their parents could even say goodbye! All of the staff knew it was going to be a fun-filled, action packed week that would tire both us and the children out.

Watching the children enjoy themselves by engaging in so many activities made me wish that summer camp lasted more than four days. We went to the Children's Museum and Jump 4 Fun where they were entertained for hours by creating their own radio stations, riding in the play fire trucks, and bouncing and climbing in bouncy obstacles even after their legs were exhausted. It was hard to get them to leave to go to lunch! We went swimming at the Town of Clinton Recreational Park where they enjoyed swimming, building sand castles, and playing on the playground. Horseback riding was another popular activity of the week. On the last day we went to the Norwalk Aquarium where we were able to touch the stingrays, look at sea turtles, jellyfish, and fish that were bigger than us!

The June 2012 summer camp was definitely a success. The children and staff had a wonderful time encountering new experiences together. I am so thankful for being able to participate in the wonderful opportunity of working with the children and putting smiles on their faces every day.



A Message From the Executive Director...

Whose Life Is It Anyway?

by Regis Obijiski

Doctor: "You'll be fine."
 Ken: "Oh, you're even funnier than me."
 "They'll be no last minute resuscitation, right?"
 Doctor: "Only with your expressed permission."
 Ken: "Then why are you doing it?"
 Doctor: "Simple! You might change your mind."

A drama about personal choice taken to its limit, "Whose Life Is It Anyway" is a 1981 movie told about an artist who wants to die because of his pervasive physical paralysis caused by a car accident. Ken's body, below his neck, is completely unresponsive to his will, and yet his mind remains penetrating and his coping humor is dark and edgy. He doesn't want to be taken care of, doesn't want any pity, and, above all, doesn't want anyone to be making decisions for him. Glued to that screen 30 years ago, I remember this movie to be pre-Doctor Kevorkian, and I recall my emotions of deep compassion, laughter, tears, terror, anger, compassion.... This story is about big league choice, life and death choice, personal and professional constraints on choice, the chasm between intention

and action, the pain of free will contorted by one's current realities and the release valve of humor.

To appreciate the importance of everyday choice, our going to an extreme example of limitation, self-insight and difficult choice can inform the complexity of ordinary choosing.

Among people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (IDD), indeed among all people, choice is very important for reassuring personal dignity. Choice is also very elusive. It yearns to be completely free but must adjust to life's shrinking menu of options. It may be celebrated, yet constrained by personal and professional circumstances. It may be boundless but surrender to those to claim to know better. It may also be the over-arching principle of a service system, yet built on subtle or even outright controls.

In the world of IDD, we rarely reflect on the strange combination of opposites that trip off our tongue so easily; for example, *managed care, strength-based deficit assessment tool, quantifying quality, flexible capitation, risk management.*



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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Please address comments about the newsletter to Beth Cookinham at:

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 123 West Road
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 email: bcookinham@nhrny.org

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Managed care defines and limits the long term care and medical care offered people with IDD, child care, elder care, home care, etc. by managing it in some way. Far from semantics or word play, managed care is a policy term that comes with definite sets of expectations. Its genesis is the economics of funding. The high language of choice, equity, integration and civil rights aside, managed care is about taking care of people and paying special attention to cost. Civil rights should inform funding, but funding also intrudes on high principle, such as choice. Each informs the other.

So, who is really in charge in the service system? Who is really calling the shots? Whose life is it anyway? Is it the person who is at the center of the planning process hoping to be self-directed? Is it a managed care company who handles a capitated payment and makes judgment calls on that which is actuarially prudent and risk adjusted? A person with IDD wants positive outcomes for his or her life, and the professional manages that care and ensures that quality outcomes are measured or quantified in order to be paid for the service. Examining who is in charge, one must conclude that it depends how you look at it and who is doing the looking.

In the People-First Medicaid Waiver being advanced by the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), a new party will added to the mix and will be making choices for people receiving care. The Managed Care Organization (MCO) will be New York State's centerpiece In the privatizing of the Medicaid system. This entity will make many financial choices based on quality outcomes in their own provider organization and in other provider agencies.

OPWDD is encouraging agencies like this one to consider becoming a regulator as well as a provider. The regulator role is akin to that of an insurance company managing and paying for care. The money they will handle is State and Federal public funds (designated for both long term care and medical needs), and they will be making very serious decisions regarding sister agencies.

The philosophical underpinnings of OPWDD's People-First Medicaid Waiver are indisputably principle-based. So, why build into the Waiver an inherent conflict of interest, an ethical compromise, at the heart of this new managed care enterprise? Perhaps, there is a fear that large private insurance companies would do a worse job by making only bottomline decisions and sacrificing the mission to serve people. However, will turning mission-driven

agencies into insurance companies be any less of a worry?

There is some interest among agencies in becoming MCOs, risk managers for people they do not know. Unable to pinpoint motives and unwilling to judge the motives, one could speculate a few reasons: survival, getting to the top of the funding food chain, being able to regulate your own service provision, making decisions on the performance of other agencies, taking your own uncertainty (to which risk is tied) out of the equation, making choices within a context of your own making, etc.

If MCOs are considered to be indispensable to the privatizing of Medicaid, one suggestion would be to de-couple service provision from its operations. Allow for the setting up of not-for-profit MCO corporations with a board of directors representing affected agencies. Welcome membership by participating agency choice. Ensure that surplus is directed to no single provider or select group of provider agencies but that participating agencies benefit in a shareholding way. Round-robin accountability built into incorporation purposes can encourage operational fairness with choices and decisions that are mission-based as well as cost-sensitive.

In truth, the entire managed care enterprise isn't the brain-child of OPWDD. That choice was made for them and passed along to us by the Governor's office. The entire Medicaid reform process will be overseen by the NYS Department of Health. Beyond our State geography, the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid not only allows for the filing of a variety of Medicaid Waivers, they are demanding that New York State get better control of their Entitlement spending habits (the highest per capita in the nation). Beyond Mr. Obama's administration is a volatile Congress taking dead aim at the future of Entitlement programs such as Medicaid. Beyond Washington, most of the rest of the world is broke, and we are connected to them.

The strings of choice over whose life is it anyway are very long and tangled. We are not required to like managed care, but we will have to live with it and be smart enough to understand it and willing to help shape it and play by its rules for at least the next decade. For sure, individual choice in the IDD service system is not and will not be simply individual.

AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

A Vassar Fellow's Experience

By: Sean Ferguson

Rarely have I ever felt so anxious or excited or as the day I stepped out of my car and into Brigg's Farm. It wasn't the fact that I had never worked on a farm before that made me so nervous, though. It also wasn't working with people with developmental disabilities; I had done that before. It was working with so many of them all at once. As a cross country and track runner in high school, I got the chance to work with a young boy named Sammy who had autism. Every other day, my brother and I would run with him. We built a strong personal relationship together, playing word games to pass the time while running down trail after trail. To this day, when I come back home from Vassar on breaks, Sammy and his family are some of the first people I see.

I wasn't sure how I would be able to build such a close relationship with all the guys at the farm, though. I had two years with Sammy and only ten weeks with them. But on the very first day, Michael McGill put my fears to rest. The second I got out of my car he yelled, "hey man!" and gave me a big high five. I thought, "here was a guy I could get to know!" Every day for the rest of the week Mikey would run up to me and give me a great big hug.

Within the first two weeks tons of different guys were running up and welcoming me and asking if I would be in their group.



Pictured above: Bill Habekost & Sean Ferguson

Nobody was quite like my friend Sammy, but that wasn't a bad thing. I met a wide variety of guys with different disabilities and most importantly different personalities. No matter what the diagnosis, each guy had their own charm. Bill Habekost was extra sweet, Mikey was always friendly, and Kevin Leonard could always make me laugh. This was the most important thing I took away from my internship: regardless of the disability, every person was different. It was a fact that every one knew at NHR.

This was also one of the reasons why I decided to continue my work at New Horizons through the school year. While I am still pursuing a degree in History and eventually going to Grad. School, I still want to be a part of the work at Briggs Farm. That is why this fall, I am applying to be a member of their relief staff. My experience at New Horizons is not only something I always want to remember, but also something I never want to end.



New Horizons Foundation Annual Appeal 2012

The New Horizons Foundation Annual Appeal 2012 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.

"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

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123 West Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
Donations to the Foundation are fully tax deductible.

AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

Congratulations to Lori Ortiz, DSP at Mountainview, who was recently selected as Employee of The Month.

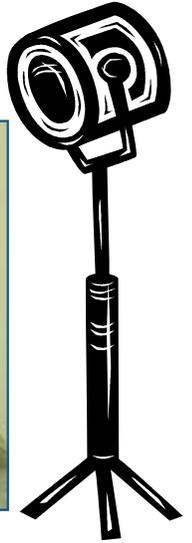
Lori's nomination read as follows:

"I would like to nominate Lori Ortiz at Mountainview for employee of the month. Lori always goes above and beyond what is asked of her and always comes to work with a smile on her face. She has the biggest heart and will always go out of her way to make someone's day better. I believe that Lori has made a very positive impact of those who live at Mountainview and those who work here. Lori is very proactive at work with scheduling acute appointment to ensure the best possible health for the individuals who live at Mountainview and always advocates for the individuals we serve. Lori never seeks recognition for the amazing things she does."

Spotlight On...



Lori Ortiz



Pictured above: Alida Ward with her aunt & uncle.

Visit to Maine

by Jane Brooker

Anyone who knows Alida Ward, who lives at the Round Hill IRA, knows that she loves to try to keep in contact with her family whether it be on the phone or one of the pictures/letters she sends them. Almost every week she speaks to someone from her family especially her Aunt Becky and Uncle Arthur in Maine.

It has been about 7 years or so since Alida visited her aunt and uncle. On July 19th-22nd Alida went to Maine to visit them with her staff Kaye Cavanaugh and myself. Alida knew she may be going but didn't know till the morning of. Boy was she surprised. A HUGE thank you also goes out to her primary staff here at Round Hill, Katrivia Owens for making this all happened and for planning the trip. This is also one of the things that Alida had mentioned during her CQL interview.

Alida enjoyed doing lots of shopping, eating lots of seafood, scenic boat cruise and of course spending time with her aunt and uncle. To this day Alida is still on Cloud 9 about the trip and is enjoying telling everyone how much fun she had, what she did and all the pictures. Alida can't wait to go back. We are going to try to do another trip in the spring. GO ALIDA!!!!!!!

DSPANYS Meet OPWDD Commissioner by Barbara Delventura



On May 30, 2012, the DSPANYS (Direct Support Professionals Association of NYS) Board of Directors met with OPWDD Commissioner Courtney Burke. Prior to the meeting, the board surveyed its members to find out what issues concerned them. These issues ranged from salary and benefits to budget cuts and high staff turnover. Commissioner Burke was very open to talking about all of these issues facing DSPs, not only the DSPs who work for the state but also for DSPs who work in the private sector as well. She said that OPWDD was looking to adopt the NADSP's code of ethics and looking for ways to promote it statewide. She also stated that she wanted to meet with the board again at a future date. If you are interested in learning more about the DSPANYS please visit their website at www.dspanys.org.

AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

Dance Recital *by Hope Badroe*

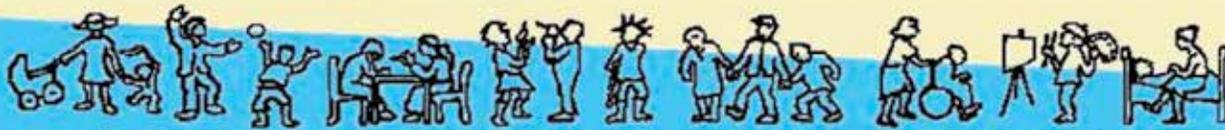
On 6/16/2012, Janet Collentine participated in a dance recital at Dover Middle School. She danced to 'Beat It' by Michael Jackson.

Through the CQL (The Council on Quality & Leadership) accreditation process, and person centered planning process, Janet shared her hopes and dreams to become a musician and dancer. We started the process in finding a place for her to learn to dance. On Mondays she attends the American Stardom Dance Academy. We also bought her a guitar. Today, Janet strums her guitar and sings at home; she also plays her guitar at Odyssey when she goes to church on Sundays.

These were Janet's words as her sister was complimenting her on her dancing ability, "MY DREAM CAME TRUE." This is the true meaning of supporting someone's dreams and aspirations. Janet was so happy, the smile on her face was worth catching. As I reflected on her on stage I said, "This is why I work with people; it is about touching lives and creating change, one person at a time." Congratulations Janet!



*Pictured above:
Janet Collentine*



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An Association Committed to the Development of Direct Support Practice



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National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week

September 9-15, 2012

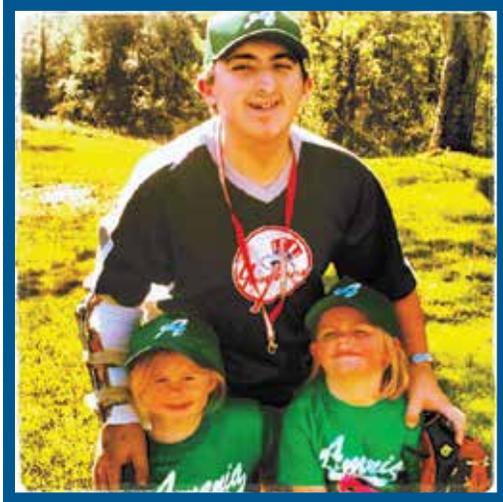
*If you don't already know
a DSP, someday you will.*

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AROUND THE AGENCY NEWS

TBall

by Mary
McNamara



Pictured above: Chris Barrett with Gracie & Emma

Anyone who knows Chris Barrett, who lives at the Stormville IRA, knows that he is an avid sports fan. He is faithful to the Yankees and the Jets. Chris is also the older brother to two twin girls, and is very good with children. Over the past few months, Chris has used his love of baseball and his talent with kids to volunteer as my assistant coach for my daughters' Tball league.

Chris was at every game, cheering on his team and acting as batting coach as well as first base coach. The kids loved "Coach Chris" and presented him with a water bottle with a team photo on it on the last day of the season. He will also be leading the "Amenia Green Frogs" in the Amenia Forth of July Parade!

Thanks Chris, we would not have wanted to do it without you!

NHF Board Members Visit Morehouse

By Beth Cookinham



Pictured above from left to right: (top picture) Steve Reverri, Beth Pulst, Jill Bruschini & Rita McPeck. (lower picture) Sean Ferguson, Beth Pulst & Steve Reverri

In an effort to meet as many people that we serve as possible and learn about the needs of the Agency, members of the New Horizons Foundation Board periodically visit a different location.

On Tuesday, July 31st, Steve Reverri and Rita McPeck visited Beth and Jill at Morehouse. Steve & Rita enjoyed a personal tour of the house, along with a mini dance performance of "moves" recently learned at a Hip Hop class!

"Once again the site visits prove to show what individuals receiving services from NHR need from the Foundation Board. The insight given from not only the staff, but the residents as well is invaluable. This avenue of connection with everyone at NHR is the absolute most effect and direct way to identify the needs of those we support." - Steve Reverri

The 29th Annual NHR Golf Tournament

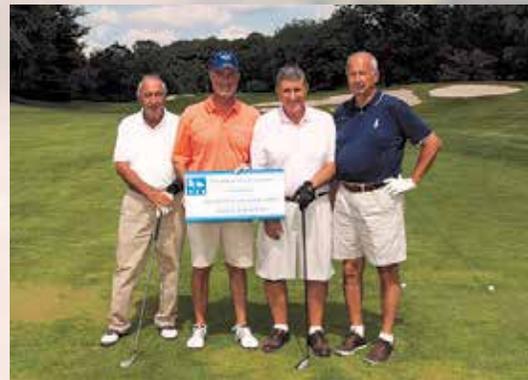
On Monday, June 18th, 2012, New Horizons held its 29th Annual Golf Tournament at Dutchess Golf & Country Club in Poughkeepsie. Over one hundred golfers participated, making this our largest fundraising event of the year. They enjoyed a beautiful day on the course! After the tournament, the golfers enjoyed dinner, a few words from our guest speakers, Alison Heady and Lynda DiPressi and wonderful raffle & auction prizes.



The winning foursome with a score of 66 was Blake Epps, Jim Doyle, Barry Winter and George Decker.



The second place team was Regis Obijiski, Donna Ireland and Jerry Obijiski.



The third place team was Art Ackert, Dan Hickey, Sr., Bob Finn and Bill Komisar.

Terry Zealand won the Closest to the Pin Contest with 6'2" and the winner of the Longest Drive was Gabe Barber. We are grateful to all of the golfers, volunteers, sponsors and gift donors who continue to make our tournament such a great success year after year! We hope you will celebrate our 30th Anniversary Tournament with us next year on May 13th!

2012 Golf Committee

Co-Chairs: **Sean Jones**, Superior Wireless & **Stephen J. Reverri, Jr.**, Dutchess County Sheriff's Office
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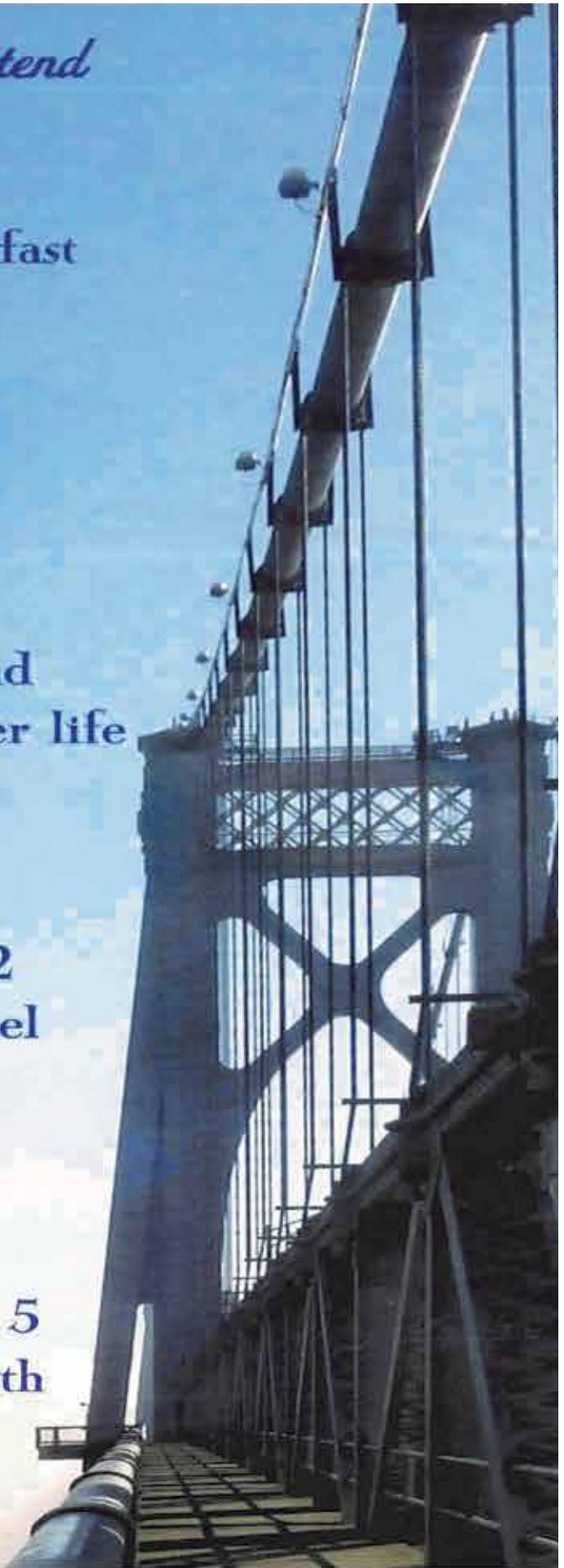
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New Horizons Foundation's
18th Annual
Community Leadership Breakfast

Honoring
John & Gloria Golden
Karen Hansen Simon
Kelly L. Traver, Esq.

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

Thursday, October 25, 2012
The Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel
Poughkeepsie, NY
8:00 am

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



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New Horizons
Foundation's
9th Annual
Fall Into Fashion Show



Thursday, October 4, 2012
Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel
Poughkeepsie, NY



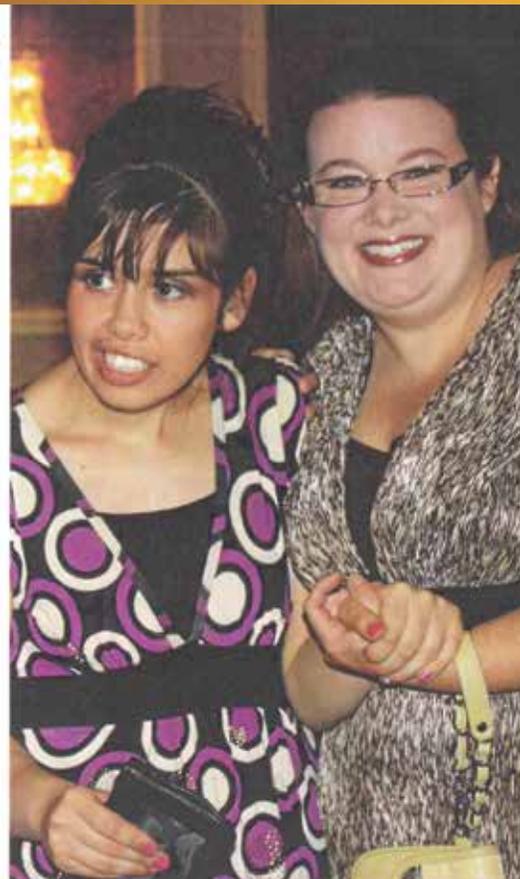
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New Horizons Foundation's
9th Annual
Fall Into Fashion Show

Come view popular fall fashions for
men & women presented
by local retailers!

Plentiful Hors d'oeuvres 5:30-7:00PM
Fashion Show 7:30PM
\$60 per reservation
Your charitable contribution is \$15

This event has sold out in the past, don't wait!
Prepaid reservations appreciated by September 17th.
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123 West Road
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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.....

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Friday, September 21, 2012
11:30am - 3:00pm
Green Haven Pavilion
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Baseball Theme!
Dress in your favorite team's apparel

**NHR IS HOSTING
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**Tues., Sept. 18, 2012
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