

The Rose Garden

Rose-Mary Center fosters the growth of children and adults with mental retardation and developmental disabilities towards lives of increased independence and integration.

Spring 2007
Volume 4, Issue 2

THE ENCHANTED GARDEN

The 12th Annual Enchanted Garden event was held on Thursday, May 10, 2007 at the Van Sweringen Arcade, in the historic Landmark Office Towers in downtown Cleveland. This year's event venue was changed, which was a big hit.

Approximately 200 guests joined with members of the Board and staff to celebrate our 85th Anniversary. Guests were able to bid on live and silent auction items, view a video representing RMC's past and present, walk through the Sherwin-Williams Center for Excellence, enjoy music by the Amethyst String Trio and sample the tasty hors d'oeuvres and desserts prepared by Hyde Park Prime Steakhouse.

This year's Angel Award was given to Aaron Reitz, former board member and Chair, and long time supporter of Rose-Mary Center; and Patrick Furlan, Director of Social Services. Pat has been associated with the Center for over 30 years, first as a high school volunteer. We are privileged to have Aaron and Pat so dedicated to our mission.

State Representative Kenny Yuko and Bill Cervenik, Mayor of Euclid, each presented Patricia Colombo, Executive Director, with proclamations, noting the Center's 85 years of service to the community.

A new activity added to this year's event was fund an item. With the help of auctioneer, Bob Hale, and new board member, Blair LaCour, nearly \$5,000 was raised towards the purchase of a vehicle to transport the children to non-emergency medical appointments.

On behalf of the individuals we serve,
a big thank you to our event sponsors:

- National City Bank • PSI, Inc. • Merrill Lynch
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- Blair & Linda LaCour and Family
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RISE UP!!

Cavs Fan, Manny cheered on his favorite team, with his Drew Gooden headgear.



Rose  **Mary**

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Euclid, OH 44117
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A Message from The Executive Director

For the first time in 5 years I'm not writing to you at this time to ask for your assistance in influencing the state budget proceedings. In fact, the state appears to be about to pass a budget which allows for some very modest increases for mental retardation / developmental disabilities (mr/dd) services. This is certainly very good news for all of us.

But this is only part of a series of important changes which began with our new governor's inauguration in January. Governor Strickland named a new Director for the Department of MR/DD. His selection was a welcome and familiar face for service providers around the state. He chose one of the most knowledgeable, dedicated and honorable men in this field, a man who is also the parent of a child with severe disabilities. Governor Strickland's choice has resulted in a series of changes, still continuing, all of which have improved our system of services. I would like to introduce you to the new director.

John Martin is the first director in many years who has experience as a service provider; a perspective we welcome in Columbus. John was the Executive Director of Sunshine Inc. in northwest Ohio and served in this capacity for over twenty years. During that time, he also spent twenty years on the Board of OPRA, our statewide agency representing mr/dd service providers. I was privileged to serve with him for more than half of that term. He also was elected to two terms as President of OPRA. John has been a recognized leader in our field, testifying at the state level numerous times and serving on every significant state-wide committee affecting our field. He is recognized as an expert in reimbursement systems and this has already resulted in changes to waiver services in the state. John is a friend and a professional and we know he will serve Ohioans with disabilities well. We look forward to the opportunity to work with him.

The practices of past government administrations as well as last year's minimum wage increase have had an impact on our finances. After several years of making cuts wherever possible in order to remain within our budget, we needed to review our wage scales to remain competitive with the new wage laws passed last November. All of our hourly staff received increases in January. These increases were well deserved by our hard working employees. Additionally, the increases and ongoing staff training have helped us improve our experienced employee retention rate. However, we now face a budget deficit. One of the ways you can help is through your participation in this year's Annual Appeal. The kick-off will be November and will commemorate our 85th year of service to the community.

Please be generous - your gift will make a difference.



Save the Date

Mayor Bill Cervenik
City of Euclid
Charity Golf Outing
Briardale Greens, Euclid
Thursday, September 6, 2007

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Crooked Halo 2007
The Catholic Diocese of
Cleveland Foundation
Associate Board
Galleria at Erieview
Saturday, October 6, 2007

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85th Anniversary Mass
Bishop Richard G. Lennon,
Celebrant
Rose-Mary Center, Euclid
Saturday, October 13, 2007

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Rose-Mary Center
Reverse Raffle
Tizzano's Party Center, Euclid
Friday, November 16, 2007

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22nd Annual Beary Merry
Christmas Show
Normandy Party Center, Wickliffe
November 28 & 29, 2007

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13th Annual Enchanted Garden
Van Sweringen Arcade
May 9, 2008

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The Ellen Bonnie Mandel Sensory Garden

Several years ago, the Center developed an outdoor sensory garden by redesigning an existing play area equipped with only a swing set. That area, surrounded by grass and woods, was an ideal setting for development of a sensory garden. The major features of this garden include a waterfall, wheelchair accessible pathways, sound and globe gardens, and of course, an array of plant materials. Special areas for sitting and relaxing provide a comfortable, soothing setting for family and friend visitations. A grove of old pine trees was incorporated into the garden area and is especially nice for quiet meditation and walking on the soft needles.

As part of our 85th Anniversary celebration, we are providing you with an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy by purchasing an engraved brick that will be placed in the Sensory Garden. Please contact Donna Cantlin at extension 105 if you are interested, or fill out the form below and return with your payment.

Engraved Brick Order Form

\$200 each

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Information to be engraved on 4" x 8" brick. Each line may include up to 13 characters per line on 3 lines. Spaces and punctuation are considered characters. Please print clearly.

Spring Formal

The sun was shining outdoors and spring was in the air; indoors the disco ball twinkled and stars sparkled as the students and staff at the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County/Rose-Mary Center School (ESC-CC/RMC) shared a gourmet lunch, followed by an afternoon of "Dancing under the Stars" at the Spring Formal. Young men in suits, young ladies in prom dresses....it was a wonderful way to celebrate the first full year at the new school location.

Parents and friends, many dressed in formal attire, danced along to popular tunes spun by DJ Eddie. A special guest appearance by recent school graduate, Krista, made the afternoon more special. The Spring Formal is another addition to the book of memories and traditions being developed at the ESC-CC/RMC school program.



Licensed Practical Nurse Scholarship/ Commitment Program



Asiyah Pelzer

The RMC Licensed Practical Nurse Scholarship was established by the Board of Trustees in 2006. The scholarship may be awarded to a full-time or regular part-time employee, with a minimum of one

year of service. A child of a full-time or regular part-time employee of the Center may also be considered and must have a high school diploma or be graduating within six months, and have at least a 3.0 GPA.

The scholarship covers all costs associated with the completion of the Licensed Practical Nursing program at any school accredited by the Ohio State Board of Nursing. This includes tuition, books, fees, equipment and required tests, including the licensing exam.

The Selection Committee is pleased to announce that Asiyah Pelzer is the first recipient of the RMC Licensed Practical Nurse Scholarship. Asiyah

has been at Rose-Mary for three years. She began her career as a direct care worker; and after a year was promoted to QMRP position and currently serves as the "Q" at Cedar and Euclid Houses. She attended Shaw University in North Carolina on an athletic scholarship and received a B.S. in biology. Asiyah has wanted to pursue a career in nursing since she was a child and witnessed the nursing staff care for her father during a terminal illness. Asiyah "loves" her job and feels that she is making a difference in the lives of those she serves. She is grateful to Linda Stein, nurse at Cedar House and Richard Davis, Director of Group Homes, for encouraging her to pursue her dream.

The Respite Program

Rose-Mary offers overnight and after school respite care. Eligibility for the overnight respite program is determined by the Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and the Family Resource Department, in conjunction with the RMC's respite coordinator. The After School Program provides social and recreational services to school age children and young adults with developmental disabilities. Contact Cheryl Duckworth, ext. 152, for further information.

The Respite Room was recently redecorated with a fresh coat of paint, new furnishings and décor making respite most inviting for our overnight guests.



12th Annual Crooked Halo Benefit

The Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Foundation's Associate Board will host its 12th Annual Crooked Halo benefit Saturday, October 6th, 2007 at the Galleria at Erieview from 7:00 p.m. to midnight. The goal of the Associate Board is to develop emerging leaders who raise funds, make grants, volunteer, and assist the Diocese of Cleveland and the community at large. To that end, we

are proud to announce that the Associate Board has selected Rose-Mary Center to be the beneficiary of this year's event. All funds raised by Crooked Halo will benefit the renovation of a residential wing for the children diagnosed with Autism.

Tickets are \$85 per person or \$160 per couple and include dinner, open

bar, and music. For more information visit www.cdcb.org/crookedhalo or email Celeste Cappotto at ccappotto@dioceseofcleveland.org. Young professionals interested in assisting with this benefit are encouraged to contact Celeste Cappotto at 216.696.6525 ext. 1049 or email Heidi Milicic and Gary Drlik, event co-chairs, at cdcfab-ch@hotmail.com.

Thank you to our *Enchanted Garden* Donors

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The Trail to Eagle

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in Boy Scouts. Requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills, completion of a minimum of 21 merit badges (12 which are required) and an Eagle Scout service project must be met in order to achieve this notable rank. The Eagle project requires a Scout plans and develops a service project which is helpful to his religious institution, school or community, and to provide leadership to others throughout this process. Less than three percent of all Boy Scouts earn the honor of Eagle Scout.

Over the past several months, in preparation for our 85th anniversary, we were fortunate to have three young men complete their Eagle service projects at the Center.

Niko McMurray, a member of Boy Scout Troop 367, completed a project which included scraping, priming and painting the front porch of the original Delaney home.

Additionally, he and his group of volunteers stained the wood structures in The Ellen Bonnie Mandel Sensory Garden, as well as stained the wheelchair ramp, benches and picnic tables on the grounds.

Eight park benches were refurbished as a result of a project completed by Shawn Spinks of Boy Scout Troop 424. Wood and hardware were replaced and a fresh coat of paint was applied to each bench.

Finally, Tony Colo, also of Troop 367, completed a project to paint the front overhang and picket fence. He and his group of volunteers also

Painted the hall and doors of the main building's first floor.

The service these Scouts and their groups of volunteers provided Rose-Mary Center has certainly saved us much needed dollars. More importantly, for those of us in the non-profit sector, it is encouraging to see youth demonstrating a commitment to service, learning, leadership and achievement - all core ingredients of youth service learning initiatives nationally and locally, and which bear positive impact for us.



Wish List

The residents at Rose-Mary Center and the community group homes are constantly in need of the following items:

Basic Living Needs

Socks Size: Large • Undershirts Sizes: Men's SM, M, L, XL, XXL • Underwear Sizes: Girls- size 12 and up, Boys - size 12 and up, Women- size 5-10, Men- size 30-38
Sweatshirts sizes: Boys- size L, Men- size S-XXL, Girls- size M-L, Women - size S-XL
Men's size hats and gloves • Bathing suits - All sizes (new only) • Wash cloths • Bath towels • Twin sized sheets and quilts • Book bags and back packs • Flash lights • Lunch boxes (soft-sided) • Shampoo, deodorant and soaps

Leisure and Activities

Disney/PG-13 movies • Art/Craft supplies, construction paper, paint, glue and gluesticks, markers, new crayons and colored pencils • Large Legos • Books - pre-school level card-board books or those with sound activation strip • Photo frames - made of Plexiglas • Bike Helmets - children and adult sizes • Small hand held radios • Personal cassette and CD players • Wood piece puzzles • Koosh Balls/squishy balls etc. • Small hand held massagers • Small electronic toys with lights and/or sounds • Magazine subscriptions • Adult 3 wheel tricycle • Knee pads • Sport wristbands -made of terry cloth • Gift certificates to local restaurants

Therapeutic and Medical Items

New blood pressure cuffs • New stethoscopes • New pill crushers • New bean bag chairs
Tennis balls • Long body pillow and case • Wet wipes

Miscellaneous

Cameras and film (Polaroid, 35 mm, or digital) • 35 mm film containers • Plastic storage bins (shoe box size) • Knee pads, elbow pads • AA and C batteries • Self adhesive Velcro
Big buttons (1 inch or bigger)

We accept gently used, in-kind gifts, from this wish list For any items that are not on the wish list, please call (216) 481-4823 X105 or X104 prior to delivery to confirm that your donation can be put to good use at the Center. Drop off times are from 10:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

We do not accept clothing that is 5 years old or older, used shoes, and large household appliances.
Due to health issues we can no longer accept candy or used, stuffed animals.

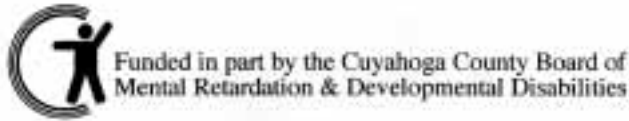
For Our Information

Please help us keep our mailing list current. If you are receiving multiple copies of the newsletter or if you have a new address, please contact the Office of Development at 216-481-4823 x 105 to update our records. Thank you.

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**Contributing Writers:
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Mary McMurray**

**Contributing Photographers:
Retta Furlan
Ray McMurray**



The Johanna Grasselli Rehabilitation and Education Center, Inc.
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