

COMMUNITIES OF Don Guanella Homes & Divine Providence Village

Programs of Catholic Social Services
 Archdiocese of Philadelphia



"The Sunshine Girls" - Riding with Joy

L-R: Katie Wolfington,
 Tierney Keefe-Heavens
 (Activities Coordinator),
 Kathleen McDevitt,
 and Ingrid Lenzko



Three exceptional women who reside at Divine Providence Village (DPV) were awarded the *Sara and Toby Wolfberg Scholarship for Therapeutic Horseback Riding at Thorncroft Equestrian Center in Malvern.*

Kathleen comes from a "horse family" and has been riding since age two, and Ingrid has been riding at Thorncroft for almost 30 years. Katie began at Thorncroft in 2008,

when DPV Activities Coordinator Tierney Keefe-Heavens suggested her participation in the program. Kathleen's mother Joan shared, *"Thorncroft is an amazing confidence-building experience, much more than just riding horses. Their instructor Carole gives them 100 percent and truly cares about them. I am very grateful to Tierney for her commitment to getting the ladies there."* Ingrid's mother Edeltraud spoke of the love and joy the ladies share with Carole: *"Thorncroft is the highlight of Ingrid's week, and going to Penn State is the highlight of her year. The girls know that Carole loves them and would do anything for them; she is one in a million."*

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"THEIR BRIGHT SMILES AND LOVELY PERSONALITIES ARE SO BIG, THE ENTIRE FARM LIGHTS UP. WHEN THEIR RIDE IS OVER AND THE LADIES LEAVE, WE ALWAYS WONDER WHO GOT THE MOST OUT OF THEIR TIME ON THE FARM, THE INSTRUCTORS, OUR VOLUNTEERS, OR THE LADIES. IT IS A 'WIN-WIN' FOR ALL!"

Carole Laulis, Thorncroft Riding Instructor

Weekly instruction in trail riding and trotting provides many physical and psychological benefits. Two volunteer assistants flank the rider as Carole provides a lesson, which

includes training for competitions. Kathleen and Ingrid have regularly competed with the Delaware County Special Olympics Equestrian team at Penn State, where each has proudly won 1st and 2nd place medals in trail and trotting competitions. Together with Katie they have also competed in the Handicapped Riders Division of the renowned Devon Horse Show since 2008.

The Thorncroft instructors chose all three ladies, nicknamed *"the Sunshine Girls,"* to receive riding scholarships. These scholarships help ensure that these three beautiful women will continue to "ride with joy."



From the Director's Desk

We now speak with one voice, while preserving each organization's heritage.

I am pleased to introduce to you the first joint Newsletter of the **Communities of Divine Providence Village** and **Don Guanella Homes**, two remarkable organizations which have ably served individuals with intellectual disabilities since 1948 and 1960, respectively.

Both member agencies of **Catholic Social Services** have their own distinct histories and traditions, with **Divine Providence Village** having served women and **Don Guanella Village** men in campus-based settings. Over the last several years, significant changes have resulted in both programs working more closely together, merging certain operations, and developing a shared vision for the future. Given that increasing integration, we now speak with one voice, while preserving each organization's heritage.

The changes, as most of you know, have been considerable. Don Guanella closed its campus and opened 11 group homes in three counties, as well as three group homes on a new mini-campus adjacent to their former site in Springfield – all within 22 months. With the transition completed, 125 men are now residing in new homes where they are thriving, with the Don Guanella Program transformed into a community-based service model. Concurrently, administrative offices were moved to the former St. Gabriel's School in Norwood, which has improved our operations by better utilizing and centralizing space, and delivering administrative functions more effectively.

In the meantime, Divine Providence was engaged in appreciable changes of its own. To help with the Don Guanella transition, for the first time 16 men moved into a cottage on the previously "all-women" campus. A group home in Delaware County was opened for women, and a new administrative team emerged to consolidate the gains of the outgoing one.

Major changes were also seen in the other "off-campus" Divine Providence programs. The **Day Program** relocated to a newly renovated and upgraded setting at the former Our Lady of Fatima School in Secane. The **Community Living Arrangement (CLA)** smaller group homes expanded from ten to twelve, and the **Life Sharing through Family Living Program** extended its services to former Don Guanella and Divine Providence residents capable of more independent living. All of this significantly enhances our continuum of care.

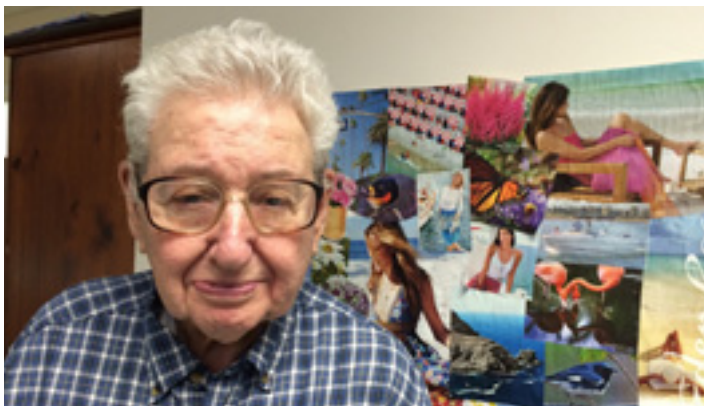
What remains constant amidst changes is our Catholic identity as the foundation of our special mission to serve people with intellectual disabilities. Indeed, we are fulfilling the Church's call to charitable work on behalf of the most vulnerable among us. These attributes flow directly from the **Servants of**

Charity and the **Daughters of St. Mary of Providence**, who founded these ministries, grew their programs and services, and nourished their Catholic roots.

In this first joint Newsletter, a variety of articles will deepen your understanding of our enduring mission and demonstrate the breadth of our services in all of our campus and community-based programs. These stories aptly describe the needs of our individuals, and how we offer them hope and make a difference in their lives.

To our stakeholders, I thank you for your support during these extraordinary times. We welcome your ongoing interest and assistance, as we faithfully continue the legacy and mission of Don Guanella and Divine Providence on behalf of the Church and the people we serve.

Fran Swiacki
Executive Director



"MORTON IS ALWAYS THE LIFE OF THE PARTY AT OUR MONTHLY SOCIAL EVENTS AND ENJOYS SHOWING HIS CREATIVE SIDE DURING CRAFT CORNER."

Royal Rehrig, Activities Director
Senior Care Center of Broomall



While Morty is a newcomer, **Donald** has been our resident for almost 50 years! After his mother passed away in 1967, he came to Don Guanella Village where he lived until 2014. Donald moved from the Springfield campus along

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"THE COMMUNITY PROGRAM STAFF IS COMMITTED THROUGH OUR VALUES AND SERVANT LEADERSHIP TO ENSURE EVERY PERSON HAS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ENHANCED QUALITY OF LIFE AND MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS."

Patti Menszak, Administrator
Don Guanella Homes

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with four other men into a new ICF/ID Group Home in Aston. [The ICF group homes, of which there are fourteen in Delaware, Chester and Philadelphia counties, are staff intensive with a strong nursing component to address the needs of our more medically involved individuals.] Donald absolutely loves his new home, telling friends and staff that "my room is jazzy!" Donald is a hard-working guy who enjoys his job at our Fatima Day Program in Secane, where he handles trash removal and other housekeeping tasks. He loves collecting baseball cards and coins, and is an avid puzzle builder.

Two beautiful stories of vulnerable men who faced challenging life changes; two different Communities of Don Guanella that have welcomed and nurtured their personal growth. While details are unique, their positive experience is shared by many of our men who have transitioned into new living arrangements. Although the moves into the community posed distinct challenges, each situation was treated with compassion, creativity and the personalized attention of dedicated staff. Their tremendous efforts have made for smooth transitions into more independent living in safe and comfortable environments for the men and women entrusted to our care.

Thriving in the Community

Residential Programs

With the closure of the only home (run by another provider) that he had known since childhood, **Morty** faced an uncertain future. Fortunately, his optimistic demeanor helped make for a successful transition into a Community Living Arrangement (CLA) with two new housemates. Twelve CLAs provide a person-centered approach to community living that ensures the highest standards of care and support while fostering meaningful relationships within a home-like setting. Morty is enjoying new opportunities to enhance his abilities and participate in activities in the surrounding community, which is central to the CLA experience. His days are filled with life-giving interactions, both in his home in Broomall, and in activities at a local senior center, which he affectionately refers to as his "club." Morty is well known and liked there, and looks forward to daily spending time with his new friends.



Don Guanella Village History

- September 1960: Servants of Charity open Don Guanella School
- January 1977: The Cardinal Krol Center opens for adult men
- September 1982: Don Guanella Village cottages constructed
- October 2011: Canonization of St. Louis Guanella, founder of the Servants of Charity and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence
- 2013 - 2015: Men move from Don Guanella Village campus into 14 community homes

Look for historical facts about Divine Providence Village in our next newsletter...

2015 and 2016 Annual Funds Exceed Goals!

The Annual Fund forms the heart of the 'advancement' ministry of *The Communities of Don Guanella, Inspired by Divine Providence*. The inspired response of **560** donors last year helped us raise **\$310,000**, far exceeding our goal of \$175,000. Your generosity enabled us to purchase two handicap-accessible vans, a state-of-the-art Parker whirlpool tub, backup generators, and equipment and accessories to create environments that improve skills and provide sensory stimulation for our men and women with dementia.

This year, our Annual Fund goal is \$200,000. As of June 24, **\$217,000** has been contributed by **530** donors. With your continued generous support, we will be able to obtain a new van for one Don Guanella Community Home, expand sensory experiences at the Fatima Day Program, install a sensory garden and outdoor amenities at the new Cardinal Krol Homes campus, and offer more aquatic therapy options at Divine Providence Village.

The theme *Love is our Mission: The Family Fully Alive* was used to help launch our first two Annual Fundraising efforts. We now know how fully alive, loving and responsive our family and friends really are. We are extremely grateful for your loving support!

Planned Giving

A strong sense of **FAMILY SPIRIT** has been a major factor in the success of our last two Annual Fund efforts. We believe that this same spirit will encourage many friends and extended family members of The Communities of Don Guanella Homes and Divine Providence Village to consider remembering us through deferred gifts.

We are in the process of creating a **Legacy Society**. Legacy gifts will insure that the outstanding mission-based services provided by The Communities of Don Guanella Homes and Divine Providence Village will endure and expand from generation to generation.



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For more information, contact:

Kevin Barr

Director of Development

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Senior Management Team L-R:

Telisha Feamster

(Administrator, Community Based Programs)

Jean Calvarese-Donovan

(Administrator, Divine Providence Village)

Patti Menszak (Administrator, Don Guanella Homes)

Paul Holmes (Administrator, Day Programs)



"When our daughter Christine was born, her future care was always a concern to our family. When she became a resident at Divine Providence Village almost seven years ago, those concerns were resolved. We are grateful and thankful for the wonderful care and kindness from the dedicated staff. Many, many, thanks to Divine Providence from our entire family."
Carolyn and Joseph Golla, parents of Chris (Divine Providence Village resident)



"I have been part of the Don Guanella Family for 53 years. If I were to pick my most favorite memory, it would be the men's love of God at Mass. It brings tears to my eyes every time when they sing, *God is so good, He's so good to us*. I wish them all God's blessings."

Maureen Infanti, sister of Jack Abbott
(resident at Notre Dame Home,
Swarthmore)

A Reflection by Father Dennis Weber, SdC

"Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted," (Matthew 5:4). These words of Jesus, proclaimed in the "Beatitudes" of his Sermon on the Mount, come to mind when I think of the many residents, family members and staff who have died over my nearly 27 years in this ministry. Jesus' words exhibit the simplicity, faith and blessings that I have witnessed in the acceptance by those we serve of the loss related to the death of loved ones or friends with whom they have lived for many years. Yes, they mourned, but they have also been comforted and blessed because of the simple faith that is so much a part of their lives.

In another verse from Matthew, Jesus praises his Father, saying, *"...although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, you have revealed them to the childlike,"* (Mt 11:25).

God our Father has blessed our "good children" with a simple yet profound faith, such that when they mourn they are also comforted. May we, the 'wise and learned' draw inspiration from them.

Fr. Dennis Weber



In Memoriam

We prayerfully remember those we have served who have passed away since January 2015

Leesa De Maio	January 27, 2015
Pietro Rinaldi	February 17, 2015
Marilyn Jones	February 28, 2015
Eugene Crawford	May 3, 2015
Mario Purrachio	May 17, 2015
Mark Cunningham	June 5, 2015
Michael Senger	June 29, 2015
John Leimbach	August 27, 2015
Myrl Kay Schaeffer	September 9, 2015
Francis McCullough	October 1, 2015
Sandy Binkley	November 1, 2015
Nicholas Cellucci	January 4, 2016
Walter Osborne	January 5, 2016
Sharon Della Vecchia	January 29, 2016
Michael McCrohan	February 7, 2016
Amber Pigford	May 11, 2016
Robert Lowrey	June 24, 2016

A Memorial Service is planned for Sunday,
November 6, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the DPV Chapel



Katie Finn (Life Sharing Provider) and Betty Jane

"BJ AND KATIE ARE A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN - THEY TRULY ARE PERFECT FOR EACH OTHER! KATIE HAS OPENED UP BJ'S WORLD IN THE DEAF COMMUNITY AND BEYOND."

Telisha Feamster, Administrator
Community Based Programs

Life Sharing is Life Changing!

Life Sharing through Family Living Program

Betty Jane (BJ) had been living alone in her parents' home for about eight years when she decided she was ready for a change. BJ was a good candidate for the **Life Sharing through Family Living Program**, and moved into the home of her Life Sharing provider Katie Finn in 2012. Her life changed dramatically, and BJ has never looked back.

Katie, who is a Life Sharing Coordinator, stresses the importance of getting to know each other for several months before beginning a Life Sharing experience. She wanted to make sure that BJ would have friends and an active social life. Betty Jane is deaf, so Katie enrolled in sign language courses and they meet monthly with a group of other learners. Katie and BJ got involved with the Deaf Community Action Network and Hearing Communication Center. They also attend Christ the King Deaf Church near West Chester University (WCU), where the Pastor is deaf and WCU students studying sign-language interpretation participate. There they enjoy games and dinner at monthly family nights and volunteer with organizations involved in helping the deaf community.

To build fellowship among Life Sharing participants, Katie established a Women's Group. Activities have included: *Painting with a Twist*, a wolf sanctuary visit, a train ride through Brandywine Valley, iPad classes, a trip to NY City to see the Rockettes, formal dances and lots of dinners out. The ladies even participated in a three-hour monthly cooking class for a year. BJ and Katie love to travel, and their adventures include Busch Gardens, the Bahamas,

Myrtle Beach, Williamsburg and Lancaster. They're next off to Florida in September!

BJ and Katie embody the essence of Life Sharing; they are truly a family. Katie has helped Betty Jane's circle of friends grow significantly. She recently rented a VFW hall, hired a DJ and had 80 people celebrate Betty Jane's 70th birthday. Betty Jane shows no signs of slowing down!

If you would like more information about Life Sharing, Respite Care, or In-Home Supports, contact:

Telisha Feamster, Administrator
Community Based Programs
610.544.7813.
tfeamster@chs-adphila.org

127 men and women have been served since The Life Sharing Program originated in 1984.



Yang and Virgil McNeal (Life Sharing client and his provider)



"WE LOVE COLLEEN AND APPRECIATE HER HELP. COLLEEN'S WORK IS IMPORTANT TO HER. EVERYBODY LOVES COLLEEN; SHE IS VERY THOUGHTFUL AND A GREAT PERSON TO WORK WITH."

Ursula McCarron, Manager
Forman Mills

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Job Satisfaction - It's Important for Everyone!

Community Employment Program

Colleen O'Connor, a longtime resident of Divine Providence Village (DPV), has worked at **Forman Mills** since 2000, where she tags and hangs clothes. She obtained her position through the DPV Community Employment Program. Colleen has been an outstanding employee who adjusted well to new supervisors and the store's move from Springfield to Glenolden. Colleen sees herself as "a big help; I like it there and everybody is friendly." DPV job coach Nellie Lawrence lauds Colleen's adaptability, independence and competence: "Colleen is very dependable, dedicated and well-loved at Forman Mills. She knows every aspect of her job and how to ask questions when

needed." Periodically, Nellie visits Colleen at the store to address any concerns. Recently, the store allowed Colleen to take breaks at her work station so she would not have to climb the stairs to the break room. Darren Umble, Director of Employment Services, praises her work ethic: "Colleen is impressive – a superstar. She is an independent employee who shows pride in her work."

For more information about DPV Day Programs, contact:
Paul Holmes, Administrator
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pholmes@chs-adphila.org

263 individuals participate daily in the Divine Providence Village Day Programs.

DPV Day Programs offer life skills training, sensory stimulation, socialization and communication, recreational and leisure activities, pre-vocational training, volunteer opportunities and supported employment.

DPV Day Program Participants

Work Activity Center (WAC)	98
Adult Training Facility (ATF)	94
Aging Program	28
Alternative Day Program	17
Community Employment	14
Community Outreach - ATF	12



The Communities of Don Guanella
INSPIRED BY DIVINE PROVIDENCE

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NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!

We anticipate that our new website
www.communitiesofdonguanella.org
will be launched by September 1st.

We hope you will visit the website
regularly to keep updated and be inspired.

SAVE THE DATE: Family Town Hall Meetings

September 21, 2016

November 16, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Divine Providence Village
Multi-Purpose Building



The Communities of Don Guanella
INSPIRED BY DIVINE PROVIDENCE



18th Annual Golf Classic Llanerch Country Club

Monday, October 10, 2016
Shotgun start at 9:30 a.m.

For 17 years proceeds from the Charity Golf Classic
have been used to support the men we have served at
Don Guanella Village (DGV).

This year, in order to expand and inspire participation,
proceeds from our 18th Annual Charity Golf Classic will
now support **both the men and women** we proudly serve.

For more information, contact:

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