



The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence

Programs Serving Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
A Division of Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

INTRODUCING FRED LOKUTA New Chairman of DPD Board Service Committee

On February 15, Fred Lokuta presided over his first meeting of the CSS Developmental Programs Division Board Service Committee as its chairman.

Our division is blessed to have a person of Mr. Lokuta's stature serving in this important role. He has a comprehensive understanding of Pennsylvania's human services delivery system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, resulting from a 30 year career working within the Pennsylvania State Office of Developmental Programs (ODP). Mr. Lokuta began his career as a direct support worker, later served in various professional and administrative roles, and ended his tenure with the ODP in 2014 as its Deputy Secretary.

Mr. Lokuta credits his early career as a direct support worker for providing a solid foundation upon which to grow, understand, and develop an awareness of the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He learned early in his career to recognize

within them their unique gifts, their need to be acknowledged and accepted, and to love and be loved.



Mr. Lokuta is currently the vice president of program and business development for Inperium, a nonprofit agency founded in 2016. Its mission is to support its affiliated companies to assure that quality services and continuity of care are consistently provided to all individuals, while making efficient use of public funding.

The Developmental Programs Division welcomes Mr. Lokuta and looks forward to the benefit of his guidance and expertise as we navigate the ever-changing and challenging landscape of public funding and regulations that affect agencies like ours.

Fran Swiacki, Executive Director of the Developmental Programs Division sat down with Mr. Lokuta following a Catholic Social Services board meeting for a brief interview. You may view that video at our website at:



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Deepening Our Love and Broadening Our Mission

We are pleased to announce that you will be receiving two additional Newsletters from us this year. In this spring edition, you will find informative narratives related to the dedicated care of our clients, as well as stories describing how those entrusted to our care, in turn, inspire us to broaden our charitable works to include others. In both cases, we are seeking to respond to the Gospel call *“to love one another as I have loved you.”*

One story features Leroy Campbell, a Don Guanella direct support professional whose compassionate dedication to our clients is abundantly evident in all he does for them. We also proudly introduce Fred Lokuta, our new board committee chairman. A former state Deputy Secretary for Developmental Programs, Fred is an expert in the field of intellectual disabilities who has a deep understanding of and empathy for our clients.

It is with genuine appreciation that we profile one of our most faithful friends and supporters, Guy Wolfington. A generous philanthropist and dedicated board committee member, he is also the loving father of Katie, who lives at Divine Providence Village. Guy regularly thanks and formally recognizes our direct support professionals, who daily minister to Katie and the other residents. He also lovingly reaches out to other residents’

family members and to those who support us beyond our immediate community.

In addition, we highlight the work of our Social Justice Committee and its caring response to the needs of our direct care staff, as well as others in the local community marginalized by social problems. This practice of the social gospel, in the words of one theologian, *“is the closest approximation of God’s love.”*

We are truly blessed to have staff who go above and beyond in their fulfillment of our core mission to love as God loves, unconditionally.

As a community grounded in faith, we rejoice with renewed spirits during this Easter season, and we reaffirm our heartfelt commitment to the dignity and wellbeing

of our intellectually disabled brothers and sisters. We are grateful for how they, in their simplicity and humility, serve as a spiritual catalyst for us to grow in meaningful and life-giving relationships with one another.

In closing, I hope that you will enjoy the more frequent opportunity to hear about the good things happening in our midst through these additional newsletters. As always, thank you for your faithful attention, encouraging interest, and generous support.

Fran Swiacki
Executive Director

INDEED, IT BECOMES
CLEAR THAT THERE IS
AN UNMISTAKABLE
CONNECTION BETWEEN
OUR LOVE FOR PERSONS
WITH INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITIES AND OUR
LOVE FOR ALL PEOPLE.

GUY AND KATIE WOLFINGTON

Devotion in Action

Guy Wolfington is one of our Don Guanella and Divine Providence "superheroes." He is also one of the newest members of the CSS Developmental Programs Division Board Service Committee.

Guy is blessed to have two daughters with special needs, and we are blessed that his daughter, Katie, has been a resident of Divine Providence Village since 1984.

From the beginning, Guy has been active in supporting

The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence. He has found ways to acknowledge and thank our direct support professionals and has taken the initiative to get involved in fundraising activities over the years to support our Communities.

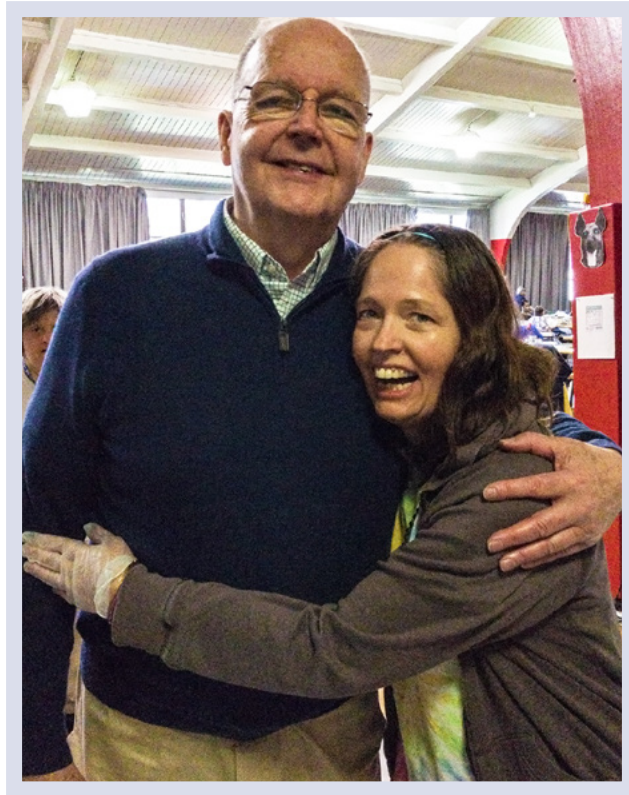
Taking inspiration from the Ladies Auxiliary at St. Edmond's Home for Children, Guy was instrumental in forming the Divine Providence Village Family Association in 1995 and became its first president. He spearheaded fundraising efforts to help the cost of providing services to the women at Divine Providence, and organized an event in 1996 that raised funds for a much-needed bus. For the past five years, Guy has provided plaques and gift certificates that are awarded to each "Employee of the Month" at Divine Providence Village.

In 2015, Guy worked with Kevin Barr as a member of our Annual Fund Committee. He personally approached almost 300 of his contacts asking for support, and through this extraordinary initiative was able to raise \$155,000 to support the goals of the annual fund campaign that year.

Guy is back in action this spring with an even bigger goal. After becoming aware of the power outage that occurred at Divine Providence Village during our crippling nor'easter in early March, he became determined

to resolve the problem by raising the \$250,000 needed to have additional emergency generators installed throughout the campus.

Guy's commitment to the Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence is motivated by his love for Katie, and also by his deep faith. Getting involved to make a difference in the lives of all the men and women in our Communities is his way of showing his appreciation for how well Katie has been cared for at Divine Providence Village.



If you have met Guy, there is no doubt that you have been touched by his joy and enthusiasm, amused by his incredible humor, or become the "victim" of one of his playful practical jokes.

Thank you, Guy Wolfington, for your amazing generosity of heart, for your example of love, humor, and kindness, and for your boundless enthusiasm and determination.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Offering Resources for Our Caretakers

"The Social Justice Committee's overall goal is to engage in works of mercy and charity toward those in need — those in our own communities and our very own employees. The Catholic Church believes through words, prayers, and deeds one must show solidarity with and compassion for the poor. I am blessed with a committed and dedicated committee who exemplify the core values of Catholic Social Services. We thank Fr. Dennis Weber, Director of Mission and Ministry, for this opportunity."

Denise Clofine, Chair of the Social Justice Committee and Administrator of St. Edmond's Home for Children

The Social Justice Sub-Committee, an arm of the Catholic Identity / Mission Integration Committee, is a division-wide effort that has been active since April 2017.

Developmental Programs Division employees were surveyed to gather information about staff needs. A chief focus of this committee's work has been assisting our direct support professionals, many of whom are recent immigrants to America. While making an essential contribution to our mission and society, they face serious personal and family challenges.

The Social Justice Committee is involved in a variety of initiatives designed to assist our immigrant work force and their loved ones. These include advocacy for fair wages from our state government; health and wellness initiatives; making available a resource guide on where to find assistance from housing to medical care; and providing an overview of services offered through Catholic Social Services (CSS) Family Service Centers. Information and support are also available to our staff from CSS Immigration Legal Services.

The committee is inspired by and embodies the words of Pope Francis in going about their work: *"None of us can think we are exempt from concern for the poor and for social justice. In imitation of our Master, we are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it."*



Our Communities have partnered with the CSS Family Service Center in Chester city in a variety of ways. Clothing and food were collected and donated to individuals in need at Christmas. Also, our staff purchased household items to provide to newly arrived refugee families.



Food Pantry for Staff

Pam Samuels helps with the cupboard along with John Hasson, who serves on the Social Justice Committee.

To make a food donation, please contact
Denise Clofine at: **610-525-8800**



Clothing and Housewares Closet at Divine Providence Village

Josephine Barbuto organizes items for staff in need.



To make a donation of housewares or other items,
please contact Josephine Barbuto at: **484-908-6505**

Josephine Barbuto initiated the clothing and housewares operation out of a heartfelt desire to help staff. She has been collecting clothing, housewares, and toys and distributing to staff at DPV and across the Developmental Programs Division for over ten years. Donations come from churches, community members and fellow employees. Items that can't be used, or are not now needed by our clients, are made available to staff. Many staff

immigrated to the United States and have immediate needs for everyday items, and some even send articles and money home to Africa for families who are without. Josephine herself immigrated to the United States when she was 19. She vividly remembers the challenges of living in an unfamiliar country with a foreign language and missing family who remain in your homeland. Her kindness and efforts are truly social justice exemplified.

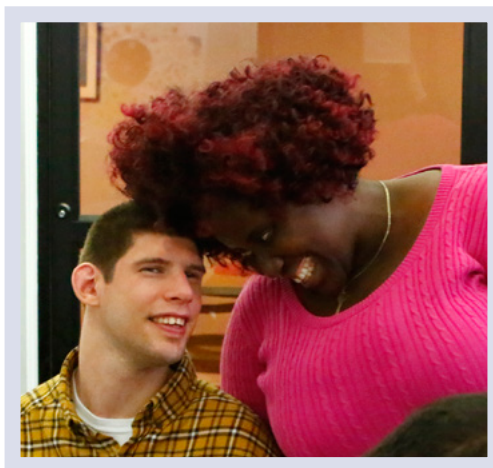


DIGNITY

and the Image and Likeness of God
by Father Dennis Weber, SdC



It has been continually edifying and illuminating to me to witness the care, compassion, commitment, and concern exemplified by our staff toward those entrusted to our care. This may have its source and motivation from many places within them, not the least of which is their “good will” translated from the Latin word “benevolence.” It seems to me however, whether explicitly understood or implicitly recognized, that these qualities have their fundamental foundation in the recognition and respect they have for the **dignity** of those we serve.



human nature and is inherently, fundamentally, and intrinsically a quality of each human person, all of whom are created in God’s “image and likeness.”

Dignity is identified as one of our five core values and is defined as “*respect for each person created in God’s image regardless of color, capacity or age.*” It is a foundational core value, and so the respect for, honoring, and recognition of this core value very much guides the support and service of those whom we are blessed and privileged to serve.

The acknowledgment of one’s dignity has its very origin from the moment of the creation of the human person by God, as recounted through the Judeo-Christian tradition. In the first chapter of Genesis we read, “*Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness... God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them... God looked at everything he had made and found it very good.*” (Genesis 1:26a, 27, 31a). This belief that human beings were created in God’s image and likeness, and that their creation was “very good,” confers upon each and every person a profound dignity, value, and worth which exists from the moment of one’s conception until their natural death. It is innately a part of our

Prophetically, St. Luigi Guanella respected the dignity of his “good children” — persons with intellectual disabilities — who were, for the most part, abused, mistreated, shunned and seen as “non-persons” during the times in which he lived. We in *The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence* strive to walk in his footsteps.



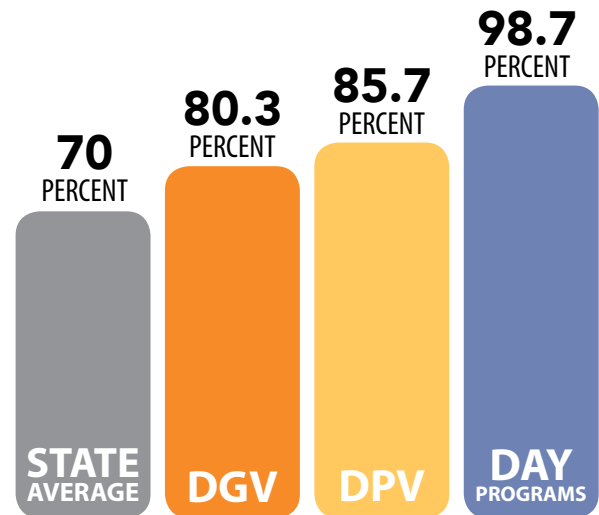
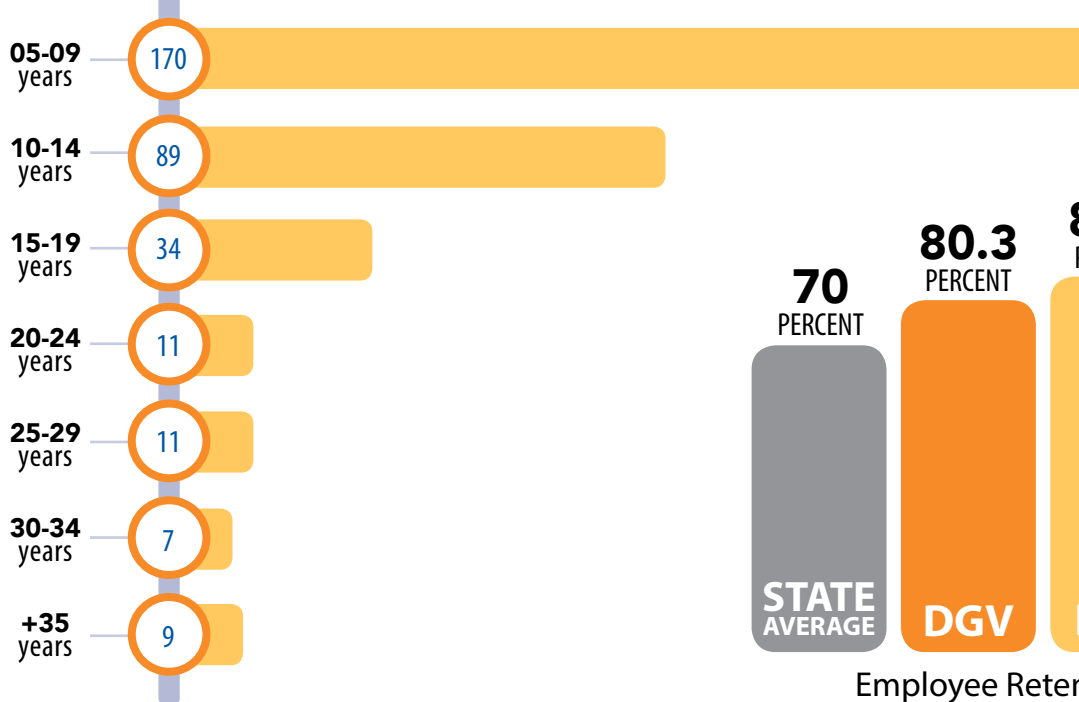
“The dignity of the human person is rooted in their creation in the image and likeness of God.”
(Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1700)

THE FORMULA FOR EXCELLENCE

Committed Direct Support Professionals

The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence pride themselves on a staff retention rate that is well above the state average.

Employee Years of Service:



Employee Retention Rates:

LEROY CAMPBELL

Direct Support Professional, Leroy Campbell, began at Don Guanella Village in 1992 providing care to the young men at Pianello House. He knew that many of these young men looked up to him and he resolved to be a positive role model. Leroy has had the opportunity to work in a variety of residential settings and cares for the men like they were family. He now supports the men at the DG Servants of Charity Home and at the Hedgerow CLA. He has worked with Clarence, pictured far right, for the majority of his career - 24 years! Leroy has four children, and his youngest child has special needs. Leroy's commitment is to *"treat the guys like I know how I would want my son to be treated."*





The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence

Don Guanella and Community Programs

Administrative Offices
20 East Cleveland Avenue
Norwood, PA 19074
610-543-3380

Divine Providence Village

686 Old Marple Road
Springfield, PA 19064
610-328-7730

Day Programs at Our Lady of Fatima

10 Fatima Drive
Secane, PA 19018
215-578-8204
www.dgvdvpv.org

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
Paid
Havertown, PA
Permit #45

SAVE THE DATE:
Family Town Hall Meeting
May 23, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

Divine Providence Village
Multi-Purpose Building



For the past 12 years, as part of an annual Lenten project, approximately 20 volunteers from St. Anastasia Parish join DPV residents in making about 400 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, which along with snacks, are donated to serve the homeless men at St. John's Hospice.

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Father Dennis Weber, SdC

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT

The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence

- **Join the Don Guanella/Divine Providence Annual Giving Society** by making a three-year pledge of support. See the www.dgdpcommunities.org/annual-giving-society.
- **Join the St. Luigi Guanella Legacy Society** by making a planned gift. This can be as simple as naming the Communities of DG/DP in your will, or naming us as a beneficiary in your life insurance policy. Other ways of giving include transfers of appreciated stock, IRA rollovers, and management of other retirement assets that may result in substantial donor tax savings. Visit our website at www.dgdpcommunities.org/legacy for more information.
- **Make a gift of cash:**
Your cash contributions are always welcome.

Please consult with your financial advisor before making any decisions regarding a planned gift.

LET'S BE SOCIAL: @DGDPCommunities

