



# Community News

A Newsletter for Friends of WKS, Inc. ♦ February 2010

## What's Happening at 39 Summer Street?

Jane D. Perham  
Chief Executive Officer

During the last several months there has been considerable time spent researching a new HRIS/Payroll System and a new Accounting System.

For years, we have contracted with a third party to process our payroll and maintain confidential software to accumulate our HR data and tracking. Each year we have experienced a rate increase of between two percent and five percent. We decided in January 2009 that it was time to take a look at the quality and ease of access of Human Resource and Payroll information that we were able to process and retain. It was apparent that if we were not receiving the intended value for our money that we needed to consider transitioning to another source of service. Further, it was obvious we could no longer absorb these annual increases. After extensive research by the Human Resource staff under the guidance of Shawn Girard, we chose to enter into an agreement with Unicorn/HRO. This transition will potentially reduce our HRIS/Payroll expense by nearly 30% or some \$20,000. Additionally, over time, we will see greater ease in payroll processing hand in hand with a wealth of information that may be accessed and sorted in a variety of ways. The behind the scenes work involved in making this transition successful is indescribable to me and I am not usually at a loss for words! The research, the conference calls, the dedication of time, the commitment to meet deadlines and more tasks than the aforementioned..... While at the same time performing the usual and customary tasks of payroll processing and HR functions. As I watched all of this evolve from a distance, much of it was a blur to me. Thank you to everyone involved. Our employees saw a mostly seamless transition process that was victorious! This project would not have

been nearly as successful without the involvement of many. Thank you all!

It is a tad bit embarrassing to admit that our current accounting system is a DOS operating system. DOS operating systems are archaic at best, yet to our benefit this system still works timely and provides us with a good product. Yes, it does have its limitations. Yet quite honestly we had not previously come across a more updated system that would provide us the same level of information without extensive financial investment. That was a level of investment that we clearly knew we could not consider at those various times. Several months ago, we were notified that our current accounting software would no longer be able to serve our needs as of July 1, 2010. Interestingly enough, I had several months previous to that announcement had brief conversations with Shawn Girard surrounding our need to locate an affordable accounting package for a 2010 purchase and installation. The proprietor's announcement forced us to move on this situation a little sooner than we had anticipated. During the last several months Pam Cadmus and Shawn Girard have been looking at the suggested replacement accounting package. There has been considerable behind the scenes work, transferring of data, testing of processes, etc. etc. The prudent decision has been made that beginning April 2010, we will be running parallel accounting systems for three months to confirm and prove that the system works as efficiently and effectively as intended and to also ensure that all bugs will be rectified prior to going live on July 1, 2010. We are very excited about this transition and the level of information that we will be able to retrieve and export. We will keep you posted with updates on its success!

## Christmas Time

By Davis  
*Bow, NH*



I really like Christmas time. We went to lots of parties and I got a lot of gifts. I got to see lots of my friends and ate a lot of food. I got a new TV, and I was so excited. It is big and moves on the wall. I had so much fun this year with so many friends and I love my family. We took pictures and sent out cards. We opened presents and cooked and had so much fun. I liked the party I saw Jon and Santa came and gave me a present. I also helped deliver winter coats to children and toys too. They were so happy and I was happy too. I feel to be lucky to have home and love and nice things. Thank you everyone.



## Our Local Community

By Amanda Maggy,  
Associate Director of Administration  
*Peru, NY*

Residential Resources of the Empire State is very fortunate to belong to a community that supports families in need. The American Legion Post #20 in Plattsburgh had contacted me before the holiday season to see if there were any families that were in need of food baskets for the holiday. The families of Sara Lashway and Holden Provost were recipients of food baskets which had the fixings for the complete holiday meal including deserts.



We have also been very fortunate that a local daycare provider has been teaching the children that attend the daycare that it is nice to receive gifts; however it is also nice to give gifts as well. Therefore, instead of exchanging gifts among the children, Ann's Daycare of Keeseville decided to adopt Avery Clark's family this year. Avery received many gifts from the daycare that will assist to him to work on his cognitive and developmental needs.

All of our families were extremely grateful for the generosity that these local members of our community were able to provide during the holiday season.

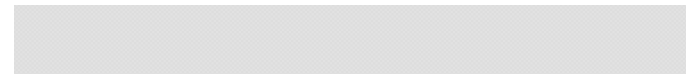
## *Farewell to a friend*

By Suzanne Touhey, Nurse Trainer *and*  
Tina Cox, Program Manager  
*Hampstead, NH*



On December 30, 2009 our beloved JoAnn Peterson passed on peacefully surrounded by her caring staff. Her last days were comfortable in her home supported by staff and Rockingham County VNA & Hospice. Her Hospice nurse, Nancy, saw her frequently and assisted the staff in ensuring she was comfortable at all times. We would like to thank Nancy and the supporting staff from Hospice for sharing their knowledge and caring support with all of us, Jo Jo and her staff.

Jo Jo lived at the Fremont Road residence for several years. The staff particularly remember and enjoyed supporting Jo Jo going to the beach and watching the fireworks. Her eyes always lit up. Each October her birthday dinner of lobster was enjoyed by all. We just couldn't give her bites fast enough. She was a good friend and will be missed by her Fremont family and RRI friends. Until we meet again – Take care Jo-Jo!



## MOVIE REVIEWS

### The Twilight Saga: New Moon & Avatar

By Jeremy Stevens  
*Scarborough, ME*

This is a sequel to the first Twilight movie. It is based on a series of books written by Stephanie Meyer. The last movie left us wondering what would become of Bella and Edward. This movie did exactly the same thing. Can they figure out a way to be together forever? However, in this movie, there is a third person added to the love story: Jacob.

The movie starts with Bella and Edward being madly in love, but Edward has to leave because people are starting to realize that he and his family don't age. He tells Bella that he's leaving and doesn't want her to join him. He promises to leave her alone and asks her to promise to stay safe and do nothing reckless. Edward leaves and Bella is devastated. That's where the action part of the movie kicks in. Bella figures out that doing things that involves adrenaline to pump, allows her to see Edward's "spirit", telling her not to be stupid. She then decides she wants to rebuild some cheap dirt bikes she found with her childhood friend, Jacob. As time goes on, he's the only one that she feels comfortable to be with. He's the only thing making her happy. Jacob starts to fall in love with Bella and Bella is too afraid to be alone and does not want to push him away. As soon as things get heated, Jacob finds out that he was born with the gene that made him a werewolf, an enemy of Bella's beloved vampire, Edward. Twist after turn, Jacob starts to think that Bella is falling for him and BOOM...The Cullen family comes back and Bella has to save Edward because he thinks that the only way to survive without Bella is to not be alive. The ending of the movie is frustrating, because it leaves you knowing, without a doubt, that there will be another Twilight movie out soon.

I did enjoy watching this movie, mostly because there was a lot of action in it. There was also the drama and romance that vampires usually bring to a movie. I did not expect it to end the way it did and therefore I didn't find the ending enjoyable. It came to a halt too fast. I would not watch this movie again, but I would recommend it to others because it was decent. This movie is definitely not for children because of the mature content, but mature teenagers and adults might enjoy it.

On December 31, 2009, I saw "Avatar"! This movie had a lot of special effects and cool visual stuff. It is an Action/Drama/Romance all-in-one! I truly enjoyed

watching this movie. It was a bit long, though, at 2 hours and 30 minutes. Sometimes it was hard to focus on the story but it always grabbed your attention back again and again. I recommend strongly that anyone interested in science-fiction/futuristic movies to see this movie! I think that those interested in this movie would probably be teens/adults. Some of the images might be too scary for children and because of its length be too hard to follow for young children.

The ending to "Avatar" was very enjoyable and intense! It did not end the way that I expected it to either. All and all "Avatar" was a very good movie and I will consider buying it when it comes out on DVD to add to my collection.

My rating for this movie is 4 out of 5 stars! Until next time, fellow moviegoers!

## MARCH IS BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

By Stacey Lloyd, Residential Director  
*Ballston Lake, NY*

All over the country, tens of thousands of people will be celebrating Brain Injury Awareness Month in March. Join your local Brain Injury Association in spreading the word.

Brain Injury Awareness Month is a terrific opportunity to promote awareness by educating the public about the causes of brain injury, its impact, the importance of brain injury prevention, and the services needed by people with brain injury and their families. By raising awareness of this "silent epidemic," we will greatly enhance public understanding of brain injury.

Here are some things you can do to raise awareness:

- Visit your legislators
- Arrange to speak to a school or community group about brain injury
- Plan a library or shopping mall information bulletin board
- Write an article for your local newspaper
- Contact your local television and radio stations
- Plan a conference or informational meeting in your community
- Hold a fundraiser
- Contact 10 friends and colleagues and encourage them to join your local Brain Injury Association.

Whatever your ideas, feel free to contact your local Brain Injury Association office for materials and assistance. **START PLANNING NOW!!!**

## *Some Sad Goodbyes*

By Sharon Cleary, QA Specialist

*Emerald St, Keene, NH*

We recently lost a good friend, Daniel Town, on January 4, 2010.

RRI supported Dan for the past two plus years, he was an inspiration for all of us. He had a great work ethic, he worked as a dishwasher at Head Start for sixteen years. He loved his family, he shared an apartment in Keene with his nephew, and, he lived on the same street as his sister, Leeann. They all helped each other. Dan loved to participate in Special Olympics bowling and to play miniature golf. He liked to attend dances in town and he loved to eat at the Pub or Friendly's. He enjoyed a trip to the White Mountains this past fall and rode on the Cog Railroad. He had a delightful smile, which we all will miss.

We also lost another good friend, Dot Cook, on January 17, 2010. I had the pleasure of meeting Dot in 1983 when I moved to NH. She had lived at Laconia State School for many years and was living in a community residence with three housemates here in Keene. RRI supported her for many years, she was a very kind, compassionate person who always showed concern for her peers, her family and her staff. She had a great sense of humor, she could make people laugh when they were sad. She loved animals, particularly cats, dogs and horses. Over the years, she had three cats whom she absolutely adored and took excellent care of. She loved to sing songs to her housemates and her cats. We will miss Dot as well.

## COBLESKILL NEWS

By JoAnn Dickenson, Residential Director  
*Cobleskill, NY*

The recent news regarding licensure for Home and Community Support services in New York has greatly impacted staff and TBI participants. The notification from the Department of Health that HCSS services will end on January 31, 2010 from lack of pending licensure will dramatically change the lives of participants in remote areas where no other HCSS services are available, if this decision cannot be over turned.

It is amazing to see staff and participants pull together to advocate for the over turn of that decision. Letters have been written and sent to Senators and members of the State Assembly in each county. Participants are requesting fair hearing trials and asking for additional contact information at the government level to advocate on their behalf.

Although the news to stop services may also impact staffing positions, staff in the Cobleskill regions are more concerned about the impact the decision will have on the participant's ability to remain in their home. They are genuinely concerned for the safety and well-being of the participants rather than for the immediate impact they will experience in their own personal lives. We have truly dedicated staff providing services to our participants. They show compassion and genuine concern for the people we serve and their families.

During a recent visit at a participant's home, services provided by our staff were summed up nicely. The participant stated that when he began services with our agency, he felt like he was climbing mountains. But with the support of staff, he now feels like he is climbing hills. He stated that if he lost HCSS services, he would surely go back to climbing mountains. What a great compliment to the staff who work every day to help people with brain injuries travel the long road back to the life they once knew.

Thank you to each and every staff person who makes a difference in the lives of the people we serve. I am proud to be a part of the team!

*The article below was published in The Plattsburgh Press Republican Letters to the Editor on December 30, 2009*

### Hockey Generosity

To the Editor: I want to send a huge thank you to Bob Emery, Mark Christianses, the entire Plattsburgh State Cardinals Hockey Team, Robert Diman and anyone else that contributed to making a Christmas extra special for a young man.

On December 4, 2009, the PSU hockey team invited this young man to their game vs. Potsdam and then to a special meeting of the entire team.

On behalf of his family and Residential Resources, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your amazing generosity and kindness. An autographed hockey stick and jersey certainly put a huge smile on his face.

It's people like all of you that make the holidays that much better!

Victoria Felio  
Service Coordinator  
Residential Resources  
Peru

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### **THANK YOU to everyone who contributes articles and pictures to the newsletter.**

Articles are due by the second Friday of each month for the following month's newsletter. The newsletter will be posted at [www.ResResources.com](http://www.ResResources.com) on the fourth Friday of each month.

If you do not have access to the internet and would like a copy of the newsletter mailed to you, please contact your local Residential Resources office to make arrangements.

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