

## Trip to See Butterflies

By Michelle Leger

*Emerald St, Keene, NH*

**S**tella and I went to see the butterflies at Magic Wings in Deerfield, MA for my birthday. I chose Magic Wings as a special place to go because it is a fun place. We saw lots of colorful butterflies, turtles, baby quail (a small bird), fish, and big lizards. Magic Wings is a large indoor place that is warm and has lots of big plants and flowers. We had fun.



## Special Olympics: 2010 Winter Games

By Ellis P. Baum, Behavioral Specialist  
*Scarborough, ME*

As a coach for the Residential Resources of Maine Special Olympics Team, I am proud to announce the athletes who competed in the 2010 Special Olympics Winter Games!

### The athletes and their events are:

Tomy Hill: snowshoeing

Nicole Gagne: snowshoeing

Lee Pelletier: downhill skiing

Doria Pappamihiel: snowshoeing

Robyn Flaherty: downhill skiing

As is tradition, the winter games take place at Sugarloaf Mountain in Carrabassett Valley, Maine. This year the games started on January 31 and concluded on February 2. As usual, those three days are incredibly busy with the opening ceremonies, snowmobile rides, the events themselves, a fireworks display, a dance, and finally winding down with the closing ceremonies. The athletes did an amazing job competing - all of the folks listed above won medals in their events!! In addition, the athletes showed tremendous spirit for the games, being patient with tight living quarters, sometimes less than appetizing food, and very bitter cold. Well done!!! I would also like to thank Kristen Petersen, Joe McCusker, and Theresa McManus for their great coaching and support!

## **Wrestling Comes to Town!**

Tim Pulsifer, Program Manager  
Peru, NY

Just ask any hardcore wrestling fan how rare it is that one of the big name organizations comes to town but that's just what Residential Resources participants Phil Tousignant and Gary Barcomb were treated to when Total Non-Stop Action (TNA) staged an event in Plattsburgh, New York on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

Phil and Gary, who both receive SDP and ILST services from RRI's Peru office, were among a sellout crowd of grappling enthusiasts who packed the Plattsburgh Recreation Center for the exciting, two-plus hour show that lived up to its billing in every way imaginable.

Phil and Gary, who were accompanied to the event by Phil's mom Cindy as well as RRI staff, were able to attend the much-hyped local event thanks, in large part, to the generosity and support of corporate sponsor FYI as well as TNA, who supplied tickets as well as special accommodations on the night of the show. By all accounts, the show was a first class production enjoyed by one and all. Even TNA founder Jeff Jarrett made an appearance, pinning rival Ken Anderson in the main event of the evening.

Both Phil and Gary appeared to thoroughly enjoy every minute of the festivities and still get excited when recalling the show. In short, the outing was a blast!

Kudos to all involved for making this a very special night for a couple of our valued consumers.

## **Unclaimed Property Administration**

Jane D. Perham, CEO

**J**ust a quick note this month.....yet of high priority for everyone to review!

Did you know there is a web site by the name of Missingmoney.com? This is a database of Governmental unclaimed property records. Common types of unclaimed property include bank accounts, uncashed checks and wages, insurance policies, utility deposits and escrow accounts. Searches are free of charge and the data is updated monthly. Take a few minutes to access the website and work with your state of residence to safeguard and obtain your lost funds, if any.

This website outlines the role of the government and a list of frequently asked questions. Nothing ventured.....nothing gained!

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## **Don't Get Bugged this Summer!**

Tina Cox, Program Manager  
*Hampstead, NH*

I wanted to let everyone know you don't have to get bugged this summer.

The Off Company makes a great product to keep those bugs at bay!

It is called the Off Personal. It retails for approximately \$10.00.

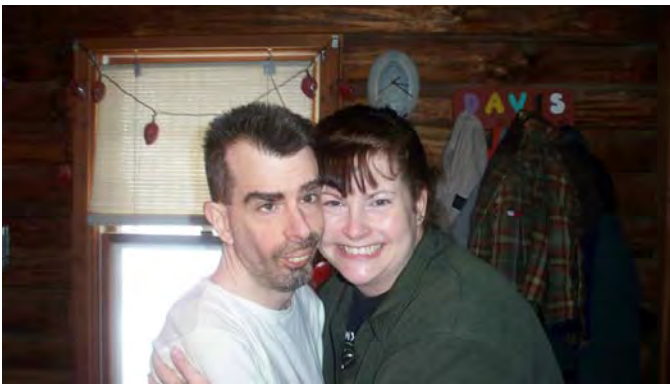
It can be purchased at retail stores like Wal-mart or Kmart. It requires a refill card that you insert into the unit and with an AA battery you're all set. It protects approximately 90 feet around the person. No sticky mess or odor on your skin and no stains on your clothes! When you are not using the unit merely put it into a Ziploc bag to prevent it from drying out! Hope this helps and hope everyone has a great spring and summer!

## February, Fun and Friends

By Davis Suprenant  
*Bow, NH*

I was very busy with lots of parties. There were a lot of birthday parties and Valentine's parties. I enjoy going out and visiting and having fun with so many friends. This month my roommates Mary, Dennis, Chris, and Alex had birthdays. There was a lot of cake and presents. I got presents too, and it is not my birthday! It was so much fun. I went to 2 Valentine's parties too. I got gifts at the party. It was fun, and I danced and ate a lot of good food. My favorite is Valentine cookies. I got a lot of cookies at the parties and they were good.

I like my friend Amy, she cuts my hair. Her son Dakota and I hang out reading Star Wars books. Dakota gave me a lot of new comics it was really cool. We talk on facebook a lot. Dakota is a cool guy to have as my friend. I am a very happy guy.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

By JoAnn Dickenson, Residential Director  
*Cobleskill, NY*

In today's day and age...everything is computerized. More and more people both young and old are seeking educational opportunities to learn computer basics. People with traumatic brain injuries often request goals in the area of relearning the computer, obtaining a degree or certificate, establishing on-line networking with family and friends, surfing the web according to interest or need, and seeking job opportunities to help them re-enter the workforce.

Whether it be to complete a college degree or just to take a class of general interest, the good news is that they don't have to be limited to what is available at the local community college or nearby university. E-Learning is a perfect means for people to gain basic computer skills, complete continuing education classes, certificate programs, or college degrees.

SeniorNet, [www.seniornet.org](http://www.seniornet.org), as well as many other universities, offer Lifelong Learning programs through Distance Learning to older people or people interested in expanding their knowledge. The person must decide if they want to earn a degree or simply broaden their knowledge about a particular topic. If a person wants to earn a degree, they need to find out if the edistance program is accredited. He can do an on-line search to find an institution that offers the topic he wants to study. The website, [www.free-ed.net](http://www.free-ed.net) offers courses of study for people that are not interested in degrees or certificates. The purpose of Free-Ed is to broaden the mind and to refresh knowledge of job skills. It's never too late to learn!

## MOVIE REVIEW!!

Valentine's Day

Rated: PG-13

By Jeremy Stevens

*Scarborough, ME*

I recently went to see the movie "Valentines Day" and although most of you are probably thinking this is a movie just for women, it definitely is not. This movie has many big name stars including Julia Roberts, Patrick Dempsey, Ashton Kutcher, George Lopez, Jessica Biel, Jamie Foxx and many, many more! Their stories are told through the interconnections they have with each other. Some will find romance in their relationship and others will feel the heartbreak of ending a relationship on Valentine's Day. I give this movie 5 stars and would definitely see it again. I recommend it to anyone who is looking for a good laugh and a warm heart.

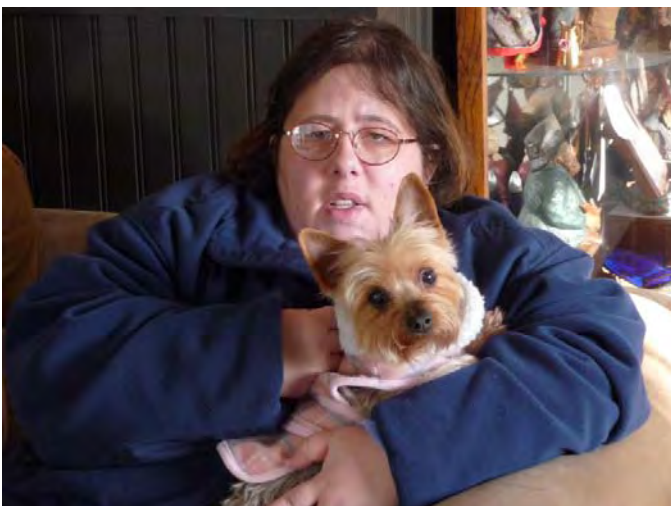
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## My Friend Molly

By Michelle Leger

*Emerald St, Keene, NH*

Molly is a little dog that lives with me. I met Molly when I moved into Christie's house. I like Molly because she is small, nice and cute. Molly and I sit on the couch together. She likes to sit on my lap or right next to me. I let Molly outside and give her treats. Molly is a good friend.



## NEIL BERG'S 100 YEARS OF BROADWAY

By Kim, Beth and Rose

*Bow, NH*

What an absolutely unforgettable revue of Broadway's most celebrated shows! It features some of the actual stars of Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserables, CATS, Jesus Christ Superstar, and Jekyll & Hyde.

Neil Berg, a composer and entertainment producer, is a personable bundle of energy, and a piano virtuoso. His love for his work was obvious as he offered intros to the performers and the numbers they were about to perform.

When questioned during an interview about his approach to the show, Neil Berg responds "I narrate the show from my piano, I approach it as if I am giving a party, the audience is in my living room, and I have invited over some singers to sing. These singers just happen to be incredible Broadway performers. I like to involve the audience and I talk with them during the show, sharing stories and anecdotes that I think would interest them, to give them unique insight into the songs they are hearing." This is exactly how you feel: as if you are sitting in Neil's living room watching incredibly talented performers.

We saw the show at the Capitol Center for the Arts on February 12. The show is a little over two hours long with a nice balance of old and current songs that had Rosie and Beth on their feet clapping and dancing. We all agree Neil Berg's 100 Years of Broadway is a must-see and given the opportunity we will certainly see it again.

## The Independent Living Movement

By Stacey Lloyd, Residential Director

*Ballston Lake, NY*

People with disabilities throughout history have been defined as objects of shame, fear, pity, or ridicule. Americans with disabilities have been incarcerated, sometimes for life, in state institutions and nursing homes. Some laws prohibited people with certain disabilities from marrying, or even from appearing in public. Social prejudice kept disabled children out of the public schools, and sanctioned discrimination against disabled adults in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

The independent living movement has been an important part of the disability rights movement. It's based on the premise that people with even the most severe disabilities should have the choice of living in the community. This can be accomplished through the creation of personal assistance services allowing an individual to manage his or her personal care, to keep a home, to have a job, go to school, worship, and otherwise participate in the life of the community. The independent living movement also advocates for the removal of architectural and transportation barriers that prevent people with disabilities from sharing fully in all aspects of our society.

In 1972 the first Center for Independent Living was founded by disability activists in Berkeley, California. By the turn of the century there were hundreds of such centers all across the United States, and throughout much of the rest of the world. In the meantime, a series of landmark court decisions, along with sustained advocacy by people with disabilities for legislation such as: the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1975, and most notably the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; have secured people with disabilities an unprecedented access to their civil rights.

Although these victories have not ended the discrimination or the prejudice; no one can deny the fact that the disability rights and independent living movements have transformed American society, and continue to do so today.

**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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