

Community News



A Newsletter for Friends of Residential Resources, Inc.

December 2012

GHOUlish AFTERNOON!

By Kevin R. Defayette, Regional Director
Peru & Ballston Lake, NY

Recently, individuals who participate in the Peru Region's Structured Day Program met to celebrate Halloween. It was a potluck of snacks, baked goods and (tame) spirits that was enjoyed while playing board games, Yahtzee and shooting pool. As always, the conversations were outstanding and having the opportunity to share smiles and laughter was priceless.

The accompanying photo captures the essence of the occasion and provides a snapshot of an afternoon in the life of those who impact our lives.

HALLOWEEN TRIVIA...

- Orange and black are Halloween colors because orange is associated with the Fall harvest and black is associated with darkness and death.
- Jack o'Lanterns originated in Ireland where people placed candles in hollowed-out turnips to keep away spirits and ghosts on the Samhain holiday.
- Pumpkins also come in white, blue and green. Great for unique monster carvings!
- Halloween was brought to North America by immigrants from

Europe who would celebrate the harvest around a bonfire, share ghost stories, sing, dance and tell fortunes.

- Tootsie Rolls were the first wrapped penny candy in America.
- The ancient Celts thought that spirits and ghosts roamed the countryside on Halloween night. They began wearing masks and costumes to avoid being recognized as human.

For more fun Halloween trivia, simply Google "Halloween Web"!

Want to see some more amazingly fun pictures from Manchester's Halloween Party?

Check out pages 4 & 5!



New Bill to Reduce Traumatic Brain Injuries

By Sue Roerig R.N.,B.S.N.
Ballston Lake NY

Did you know that as of July 1, 2012 all schools throughout New York State joined 33 other states in the union to institute the Concussion Management And Awareness Bill? This bill directs the NYS Education Department, in consultation with the NYS Health Department, to adopt rules and regulations for the recognition, treatment, and monitoring of school students with concussion and mild brain injuries. The new bill establishes specific guidelines using a multidisciplinary team and written protocol to manage all head injuries in schools.

One of the major factors in this bill coming about is what we have learned about Second Impact Syndrome (SIS). This syndrome occurs when an initial concussion is unresolved and is followed by another blow to the head resulting in serious brain injury and/or death. Doctors and neurologists cannot predict the course of recovery after a concussion, so 100% monitoring and management of symptoms is essential.

I have been performing ILST services with a Traumatic Brain Injury survivor receiving services from Residential Resources in Ballston Lake, NY. His goal is to advocate for this bill and its importance

to students. He feels that his personal story may have a greater impact on how important it is to be aware of prevention and intervention, once head injuries are identified. Resistance on behalf of students who are removed from a game for healing, he feels, will need to know the consequences of brain injury.

We are assisting this consumer in visiting area high school football and soccer games to speak and distribute literature from the Brain Injury Association of New York State. It has been noted that the schools we have contacted in his community have taken the initiative to implement this program before the mandate in July.

This public health initiative has provided education to parents, students, and educators on the significance of head injuries and monitoring involved to avoid permanent brain damage. I am pleased to find that the states of Maine and New Hampshire are inclusive and also participating in this movement. This is good news for education and reducing traumatic brain injury disabilities in the nation.

For more information visit www.cdc.gov/Concussion.

Happy Birthday, Connie!

By Sharon Cleary, QA Specialist
Emerald St., Keene, NH

On November 5th, Connie Loiselle celebrated her 73rd birthday at Keene Buffet with her staff, Matthew Tardiff and other friends from RRI. We hope you have another wonderful year, Connie.



Emerald St.'s Halloween

By Sharon Cleary, QA Specialist
Emerald St., Keene, NH

On Halloween day Mary Jo, Shawn, Glenn, David, Connie, Chelly and many staff enjoyed great Halloween stories, music, and baked goodies. Shawn and Mary Jo came decked out in their Halloween attire.



Tricks, Treats, Pumpkins, and MUSIC!

By Tiffany Caudle, Office Manager
Manchester, NH

The Manchester office held its annual Halloween party on October 24th, a week before the big day! That gave us all a chance to try out our best scares, don our scary or silly outfits, and of course, experiment with some frightfully tasty fare!

The theme was music this year, which led to all members of the Manchester management team dressing in a variety of interesting garb. Rock legends, Grammy-winners, a psycho musical therapy nurse, famous stage performers, groupies, and a certain musical couple stole the show.

Tina Cox and Jen Boisvert treated us to a rendition of "I Got You Babe," a song by their couple's costume of choice, Sonny and Cher. They were accompanied on the guitar by the newest member of our team, Nurse Trainer Elizabeth Kennett. Participants and staff danced along, teaching one another steps while burning up the dance floor!

Along with the musical guests, we were fortunate to have been visited by (among others) cowboys

and cowgirls, princesses, Captain Jack Sparrow, Rosie the Riveter, a ladybug, a nun, a pink skeleton, a witch, and a puppy!

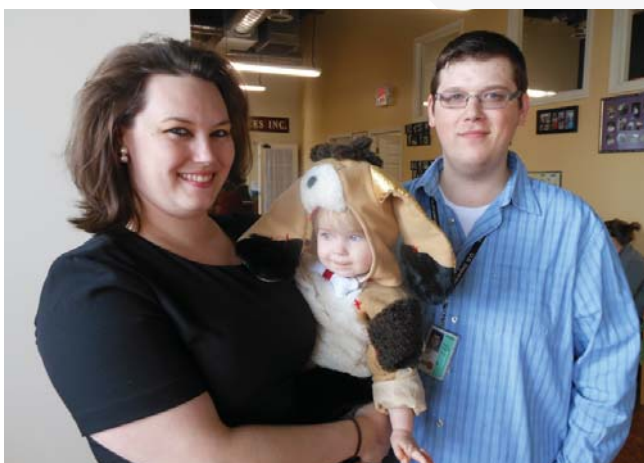
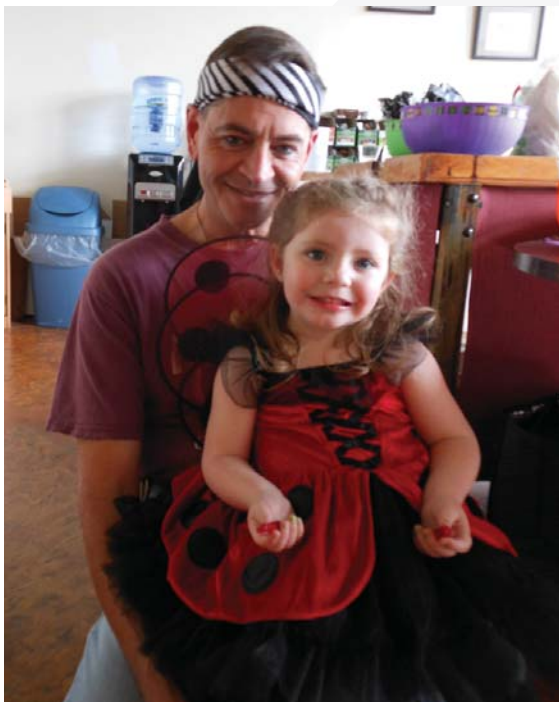
What kind of music-themed party would it have been without karaoke!? Not to worry, as we were treated to several folks belting out some old favorites! Rumor has it that a blue (no really, he was blue) Ken Lee carried on serenading us all well after the party was over.

Let's not forget the pumpkins! Just for the party, the team all pitched in and carved eleven pumpkins to light up the conference room as a special spooky treat. And of course, the FOOD! If one thing is always true, it's that the Manchester office parties are never lacking a delectable array of things to munch on!

Thanks to all who joined in the party for the laughs and fun! We couldn't have done it without you, and we look forward to everyone joining us again for the next one! Stay tuned for the date and theme!



Manchester's Halloween Party continued from previous page...



Maine's New Perfect Director

By Bridget McCabe, Associate Director
Scarborough, ME

We in the Maine Office are delighted to have a new Director and not just any Director. During the past several years we have been in transition managing the office without a Director or having one for short periods of time. We finally have a Director that is going to stick around, through thick and thin, no matter what we do: Ellis Baum! Ellis has worked for Residential Resources since March 8, 2000! Ellis began as a Direct Support Professional with Residential Resources in March 2000. Someone must have seen something in him from the start. Who would have known then he would move into a Program Manager position, on to a Behavioral Specialist, then Associate Director and now Regional Director!

Ellis is a team player paying attention to everyone; he knows the folks we support, the staff, families and other professionals in this area. Ellis has grown tremendously in the years that I have worked with him. He has gained great experience, developed his skills, and matured (but not too much) to a place where I know he will be a great Director for this office.

Ellis has a great sense of humor and enjoys pranks & joking no matter which side of it he finds himself. We hope that with his new responsibilities Ellis will no longer have time to tape down the buttons on our phone so we have no dial tone & think the phones are out of order! We promise we'll try not to rearrange his pen collection.

All jesting aside, we are pleased and proud to have Ellis in this position where he can lead this great team of folks. I am excited to be working with Ellis in his new capacity, knowing that there will be consistency and steady movement for improvement for the lives of the people we support and the employees working here. Ellis is a strong advocate for us all and we are proud to have him as our new Regional Director.

Ellis & Gerry



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 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.

Community News

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William K. Schofield, Ph.D
Founder and Owner

Our Guiding Principles

Creativity We foster creativity by exploring and learning, embracing change, and pursuing best practice. We always ask ourselves, 'Is there a better way?'

Truth / Honesty We foster an environment where open and honest feedback and sharing are expected, encouraged, and supported. We honor commitments; and we share feelings, opinions, experiences, ideas, and information in order to optimize each individual's personal and professional growth and development.

Empowerment We empower people through a process which includes giving them the opportunities, the authority, the information, and the examples necessary to become successful decision makers.

Diversity We welcome and value different perspectives, contributions, and capabilities. We promote growth, opportunity, and experience.

Quality We continually improve our services by: Promoting positive change; Increasing knowledge and skills; Encouraging personal growth; Valuing individual differences; Learning from our experiences.

Respect We believe that respect is a right, and we conduct ourselves accordingly. Our standards include the exercise of human dignity; the honoring and valuing of self and others; and communication that is clear, direct, and honest.

Trust We create trust by being consistent, stable, honest, and reliable. Trust also requires sincerity, knowledge, and capability.



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