

Better Community Living, Inc.

# Voices, Choices, Dreams

*Providing the opportunity to live, work and learn.*

## Board of Directors

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### Asst. Executive Director

Jeremiah Kelleher

### Asst. Executive Director

Marina Silva

### Business Manager

Gail Calvao

## The End of a Busy Year

*I am happy to present you with this newsletter summarizing the past year at Better Community Living, Inc. During this time we were able to continue providing vital services to children and adults with developmental disabilities despite facing some of the most challenging economic situations in years. It is being delivered to you not only with all of the wonderful changes happening within the agency but also with a vision for hope for the future. Our theme for the upcoming year is FRIENDSHIPS. The importance of establishing relationships for consumers with non paid persons will be the major focus of our agency's efforts this year. National studies report that many individuals with developmental disabilities do not maintain friendships with non-paid persons. Our focus in the next year will be to identify persons who would like to develop friendships with non-paid persons within the community and then develop strategies to make this dream come true. Many of the individuals we currently support already have many friends who are not paid to be with them. This simple gift of friendship will be the focus of our trainings, management reviews and strategy developments. Each new friendship is really a priceless gift.*

*On the program side of things we have made many new improvements within our Residential Services with the extensive renovations at our Fairhaven site. This house is now fully accessible inside and out for individuals dealing with mobility issues. We also have a new site in Acushnet which has become a quiet, country home for three young ladies. Improvements have been made in transportation as the agency acquired a fleet of 5 new Toyota Siennas and 4 new Honda Odysseys which should significantly cutback on vehicle maintenance and repair costs. A new wheelchair van was purchased to replace a very well used ten year old van.*

*Working with a greater demand and fewer resources, we will keep focus on the task. We've already made some tough decisions about non-critical services, but our ongoing strategic conversation will be about preserving our most critical and core services and focusing at the task at hand.*

*On December 18th, we officially moved our administrative offices to 5 Ventura Drive in Dartmouth located off of Faunce Corner Road. I personally invite you to stop in for a quick visit. We would be happy to see you and proud to show off our new offices. Phase II for the 5 Ventura Drive site will be the facility's build out, currently in the design stages, for our new Day Habilitation Program site which 848 Mt. Pleasant Street will move to in 2011.*

*Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season.*

*Thomas C. Riley, Executive Director*

## Thanks to Our Major Sponsors

- Bristol County Savings Bank
- Contemporary Design Group
- Dorothy Cox's Chocolates
- Fisherman's Market
- Janice Gonsalves & Charles Lord
- New Bedford Housing Authority
- Northern Wind Inc.
- Rotary Club of New Bedford
- Saunders Dwyer Funeral Home
- Southeastern NE Dental Group- Dr. El Ghadi
- Southern MA Credit Union
- Sylvia Group of Insurance Agencies
- Tempest Fisheries
- Texas Roadhouse
- The Seaport Inn
- William & Jean Whelan



Manager Enone Aguiar stands in the brand new kitchen at our recently renovated Fairhaven site.



## Moments That Make a Difference

### Volunteer Incentive Program



April 2010 - Board Member Michelle Lapalme presents a check to Executive Director, Thomas C. Riley from the Verizon Foundation.

### Mardi Gras



Jan 2010 - A night to remember provided by Matt Bernier and the great efforts of our friend Julie Lariviere at WB Mason. This event made it possible for us to purchase an M.O. SmartLift system to help with transfers.



### Golf Tourney

Sept 2010 -  
The Little Marion Golf Club



### Red Sox Raffle



Sept 2010 -  
Tickets generously donated by Super Media Yellow Pages.

## Bridges to Faith Program

*If you or a family member are interested in becoming a faith companion, feel free to contact*

*Ms. Bigham directly at 508-542-5589 or by email at: [bridges\\_to\\_faith@bettercommunity.com](mailto:bridges_to_faith@bettercommunity.com)*

Ms. Trina Bigham joined us in February. We are fortunate to have her as she brings a vast amount of experience and knowledge working with individuals who have disabilities since she also provides family support for children with complex medical issues at another agency.

Bridges to Faith is a collaborative that seeks to provide opportunities for spiritual enrichment

to persons with developmental disabilities and to the faith communities who welcome them.

This program has improved the quality of life for many and has had a tremendous impact on the lives of all involved.

If you or a family member are interested in becoming a faith companion, Ms. Bigham would love to hear from you. She resides in Fairhaven with her husband and three children.



## Day Habilitation Update

Located at 848 Mt. Pleasant Street in the north end of New Bedford, our Day Habilitation Program has been up and running since October 2009 and provides day services to adults served in a medically-based model. Day Habilitation is a service provided primarily outside a person's home to support the person with a developmental disability in reaching their valued outcomes as identified in their Habilitation Plan of Service. Our programs focus on skills and activities that lead to increased independence in the home and community settings. These services also include nursing services and healthcare supervision with an on-site nurse at all times.

The Day-Hab Program recently underwent its first state evaluation from the Department of Public Health and received positive comments from the nurses who completed the review. They especially liked the group activities and the big backyard where individuals can exercise. They also commented on how well the data was set up and overall were happy with the new program's successes to date.

Eventually, this program will be relocated to our new building which currently houses the administrative offices at 5 Ventura Drive in Dartmouth. The new location will provide a much larger area and modern surroundings. Expected relocation date is June 2011.

# IFFS Intensive Flexible Family Support Program Announces Holiday Drive For Children

We are delighted to announce the return of our annual donation project to make the holidays a little bit brighter for the children supported through the Intensive Flexible Family Support

This year the IFFS Program is hoping to get department store gift cards of any kind and value so that purchases can be made specific to a family's Christmas wishes for their children.

The IFFS Program is designed to support families whose children have been found eligible for

services with the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS) and who need assistance in obtaining resources for maintaining their family unit.

This family support project remains steadily focused on the variety of changing needs and services that we can meet to improve and maintain the family unit. The challenges that face young families who love their child and struggle to support their child is an increasing community need, especially during

the holidays. The project's partnership between the family, the Department of Developmental Services and Better Community Living continues to demonstrate the tradition of our agency, to work in teams to provide the highest quality flexible service to the children and families we serve in the Greater New Bedford Community.

To find out how you can help, please contact Ms. Cathy Tremblay, IFFS Coordinator at 508-999-4300, Ext. 182



*You can provide a brighter holiday for the families who participate in this program by donating gift cards of any kind and of any value!*



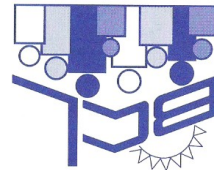
## Annual October Fundraiser Sweet Temptations IV



*During these wavering economic times that we all must endure, now more than ever, private support is essential for us to maintain our services. That said, the agency is trying to sustain such services through private resources and increased use of volunteers. That is why we are so grateful for the fundraising efforts guided by our Board President, Dorothy Cox and the entire volunteer Board of Directors and Fundraising Committee, which was chaired this year by Ms. Cathy Melanson. This year our decade long fundraising efforts surpassed the \$100,000.00 milestone since its inception. These fundraising efforts enable our agency to provide the beautiful homes in which our consumers live. As a not-for-profit human service provider in the Greater New Bedford area, we are proud to provide quality services. We are grateful for the philanthropic support that we receive each year.*

*It does make a difference in the lives of the people we serve.*





Better Community Living, Inc.  
5 Ventura Drive  
Dartmouth, MA 02747-1244  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit us at [www.bettercommunity.com](http://www.bettercommunity.com)

**Yes**, I want to help support persons with developmental disabilities and their families  
by making a tax-deductible contribution.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: **Better Community Living, Inc.**

Mail to: Better Community Living, Inc. 5 Ventura Drive, Dartmouth, MA 02747-1244

