



# JVS SPOTLIGHT

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 123

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011

## HOLIDAY PARTIES 2011



Consumers Maria Schaefer, Cathy Williams, and Randi Smith

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T’was the day before Saturday, Dec. 10,  
And all through JVS Rossplain,  
People were eating and celebrating,  
And dancin’ the “Train.”

Friday, December 9th was the Holiday Party day for JVS Rossplain, Adult Day Service, and all Day Array community sites. The party at Rossplain incorporated people working in Vocational Habilitation with those in Adult Day service, for a grand total of 200 participants. JVS Employee Council chose a magnificent lunch of Turkey or Roast Beef (your choice), mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, and stuffing. And, after stuffing ourselves at lunch, we had several games and activities going, not the least of which was a DJ playing good tunes that made a lot of people dance. We wish to thank the JVS Employee Council for a great job of planning and serving at the event! We also wish to thank our friends at Chef’s Choice Catering and D.J. Toad Productions for all their assistance in making sure it was a great day! Finally, we want to thank all the terrific staff at JVS for their assistance throughout the day, making sure everyone had a great time!

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Also, our participants at our various Day Array sites gathered together at Powel Crosley, Jr. YMCA for a scrumptious feast. The group of 70 people also had a fabulous DJ to play some songs for the group. A great time was had by all! Thanks to Powel Crosley, Jr. YMCA for hosting our event, thanks to Kroger's and Panera Bread for their donations to the party, and thanks to Mike Manzi (DJ),



## PRAISE FROM GORILLA GLUE

JVS received a heart-warming letter from the staff at Gorilla Glue recently. We wanted to share a piece of it to express our thanks toward all individuals and care givers who support us.

*"We at Gorilla Glue have been on a mission since day one to develop and sell the toughest products, and we are very thankful that you and your team are a vital part of our success. This journey continues. Our relationship/partnership grows each year as does our business'. We want to thank you and your team for being the valued partner/supplier that has provided us with excellent Quality and Service over the years. Very few companies make that commitment and exhibit the passion you have for our Product Standards."*

## YMCA WORK - N - PLAY UPDATES

JVS has on-going partnerships for Work and Play programs at Blue Ash YMCA, M.E. Lyons YMCA, Gamble Nippert YMCA, Powel Crosley, Jr. YMCA, and Central Parkway YMCA. The day has been 3 hours of recreation and 3 hours of work at minimum wage per day. Two things will change in 2012.

Each person will get a pay raise with the new Ohio minimum wage increase to \$7.70 per hour effective January 1, 2012.

Beginning Monday, January 9, 2012, the three hour work component of the program will be reduced to 2 hours and 30 minutes per day. While this is not something we desire to do, it is necessary to offset the minimum wage change as well as help us meet the economic challenges of running the program. This results in a shorter work period of 30 minutes less, and equals roughly \$3 per day less the person will make.

We will start distributing these changes to program participants and their families the week of 12/26/11. If you receive any calls about it, that is our purpose in letting you know the changes above. We have no intention of laying off people or reducing any participants at the programs. With these changes, we can discuss changing a participant's arrival or departure time for the program, if that would be helpful.

Please contact Keith Hammond at 347-1528 if you have any questions or concerns.

## NEW POSITION AT JVS



We don't have any new staff, but we do have a promotion for one of our best staff. Starting 12/19/11, Virginia Aylward became our Lead Day Array Case Manager. Virginia has been with JVS for over five years now, first as a Job Coach at an enclave site, but many of you encountered her the last few years as a Case Manager for our Day Array sites. Virginia is a frequent contributor to the JVS Spotlight (not this article, though). She's done a fabulous job, and we're happy to promote her to her new Lead position!

Congratulations Virginia!!!!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KOUNS

Congratulations are in order for Jennifer Kouns, a Case Manager in our Rossplain Work center. She and her husband, Robert, welcomed Emma Kouns into the world. Emma was born 11/22/11 weighing 7lbs., 8oz. Congratulations!!

## OUR CONDOLENCES

The holiday season is a happy time for many, but can be very difficult for others. All of us at JVS wish to offer our condolences to the friends and family of Cheryl Morris. Cheryl was a long-time participant in our Adult Day Service and Supportive Home Service. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

## STAFF REVEALED

This month we introduce you to "Mr. Positive." David Shell is one of the most optimistic and friendly staff persons at JVS. Dave's motto in life is to "have as much fun as I'm allowed to every day". David has been with JVS just over 2 years, but has made a great impact in the lives of the X-Plorers group. David's role is as a Work Adjustment Specialist, who also works alongside Chrissy Crites in our X-Plorers room.

David came to JVS through Job Developer Charlotte Alexander (who has since retired). After doing a "mock" interview with HR, JVS saw great potential and asked him to interview again for an actual position. While as a floater in the work center, David floated into the X-Plorers room and "dropped anchor" there.

David's job is unique, because he and Chrissy (his "work wife") create themes and lesson plans for each day. Starting in January, they will be devoting each day for the new 5 weeks to a different letter of the alphabet. David has also contributed a lot of the supplies the X-ploers use, especially the handmade shelf that holds all their games.

Although David is new to this field (he worked for Cincinnati Milacron for 27 years and 4 years with Swarovski Crystal), but claims that he has learned a great deal about the field and it has given him a fresh perspective on many things he formally took for granted.

David truly enjoys his job, and anyone who knows him can attest to that. We truly appreciate all that you do David!



CONSUMER DIARY:  
SHERIDA CLARKE  
&  
DEBBIE ROSENBLATT



Sherida contributed two articles for the spotlight in December—what an over achiever!

### Holidays

The holidays are a time for family and friends. It is a time for holiday songs and games with your loved ones. It is a time for reflection over the past year. For me, it is how I can become a better individual in the coming year. Gift giving is only one part of the season. If you do not have a gift, you can give of yourself by thinking of other individuals, other than your family members and friends.

We have seemed to have lost the true meaning of the holidays. It has become about “what will you give me?” and “what I will receive?” for the holidays. There are too many ads about the gifts you want to receive and who spent the most money.

I don’t believe in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. We get so wrapped up in the presents that we forget the presence of our families. My thought is if you give more of your time to helping others, you won’t worry about what other individuals have given you for the holidays.

### New Year Resolutions

A New Year’s resolution is a commitment that someone makes to one or more goals. It could be a project, or the reforming of a bad habit. Individuals usually start setting resolutions in the beginning of the year. The most common goals to set are to exercise, stop smoking, get a better job and to manage money better. My thought is that you should not make a goal that is too overwhelming to achieve. You will be more likely to give up on the goal that you have set for yourself if it is too complicated or difficult. The simple part is setting your goal. The hardest part is to finish what you have started. The best thing for me to do is to not have a New Year’s resolution because I never follow through. If you are going to have a resolution, make it good, and have a Happy New Year!



Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday that usually occurs each December. This year, it is December 20-28. During the holiday, we eat doughnuts (sufganiot) and give gifts to others. Each house has a Hanukkah party. This is the holiday where we light the Menorah and light the Hanukkah candles. We also play games like spinning the Dreidel. Hanukkah is also called “The Festival of Lights.” It celebrates the miracle in the Temple in Jerusalem when the Menorah burned on a single day of oil, and it miraculously burned eight days. I love Hanukkah, especially being with my family.

*Debbie is a JVS work center participant, who is also a part of our VIP Program, and Employee Council.*

## Jewish Vocational Service

4300 Rossplain Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45236  
Phone: 513-985-0515  
Fax: 513-793-5211

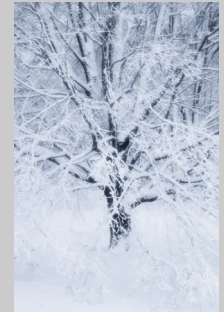
### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Jewish Vocational Service will be closed in observance of New Year's on Monday, January 2nd as well as Monday, January 16th for MLK Jr. Day. Please call 985-0515 if you have questions about our programming schedule! Happy New Year!!

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

[WWW.JVSCINTI.ORG](http://WWW.JVSCINTI.ORG)

In case JVS needs to close due to bad weather, check your television (Channel 5-WLWT is the official station) for the announcement that "Jewish Vocational Service-Hamilton" is closed. Hamilton includes all Hamilton County programming from the Rossplain Work Center to the YMCA/Enclaves to the Westside programming and more. "Jewish Vocational Service-Butler" includes all Butler County programming and does not pertain to Hamilton County programming. If there is no announcement made, the agency will be open. A message will be placed on the 985-0515 answering system by 6:00am if the agency is closed to participants. Please listen for "due to inclement weather, our offices are closed to consumers." We are always closed by 6:00am, so please listen for the message about inclement weather by calling **AFTER** 6:00am. Also, YMCA's may be open, but please follow JVS policies when it comes to bad weather.



## REFERRAL INFORMATION

**We are looking for new participants for any of the following:**

**Keith Hammond** can answer all Work Adjustment/Work Center, Enclaves, Mobile Work Crews, and the YMCA Day Array and student/summer questions at 513-347-1528 or [khammond@jvscinti.org](mailto:khammond@jvscinti.org). He also gives tours of the facility at Rossplain Road.

**Virginia Gilbert** manages the Adult Day Service, West Side Therapeutic Social and Recreation Services, and Supportive Home Service programs. If interested, contact her at 513-347-1585 or [vgilbert@jvscinti.org](mailto:vgilbert@jvscinti.org).

**Jonathon Sherwood** is the contact for JVS Butler County. Jonathon's office is at 3400 Symmes Road; Hamilton, OH 45015 and he can be reached at 513-744-2501 or [jsherwood@jvscinti.org](mailto:jsherwood@jvscinti.org).

**Chrissy Perkins** manages Assessment, Evaluation, Academic Services, Job Development, Job Coaching, and Follow-Along services and will respond to queries at 513-347-1511 or [cperkins@jvscinti.org](mailto:cperkins@jvscinti.org).

