



JVS SPOTLIGHT

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FEBRUARY-MARCH 2010

JVS RECEIVES SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD



Pictured above: Brenda Blakney (Community Case Manager), President Peter Bloch, Barry Wolfson (Quality Assurance Manager & Consumer Rights Office), and Brenda Pierce (Transportation Supervisor)

On March 1, several JVS staff were privileged to attend the ninth annual Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services Banquet at Sharonville Convention Center. Certainly a highlight of the evening was HCDDS Superintendent Cheryl Phipps bestowing a Superintendent's Award on Peter Bloch, JVS President. Mr. Bloch set up a number of Wendy's Burger Bashes in 2009 to raise funds for the HCDDS Levy as well as provide information to voters about all the great things the Levy accomplishes. Along with Mr. Bloch, those pictured above also helped with levy fundraising. Mr. Bloch accepted the award for all JVS, and appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Levy effort. Thank you all for the Superintendent's Award, as well as a great evening with friends and colleagues alike.

Another great highlight was the nomination of JVS Activity Director, Mark Smith, for the Stu Warshauer Volunteerism Award. Mark Smith made the top three nominees in that category, all of whom had excellent records of volunteering and helping people in our field, many for three decades or more. Thanks for that recognition and honor, and all of us at JVS thank Mark Smith for all the many helpful things he does each and every day!



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JVS WINS PROGRAM OF THE YEAR BY BCBDD



Pictured above are several JVS employees: Following the presenter, Tanya Coffey, L to R, President Peter Bloch, Stephanie Wilson, Jonathon Sherwood, Robin Totsch, Vice President Rich Davis, Lu Smith and Bob Berberich.

Jewish Vocational Service was awarded with Program of the Year by the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Tanya Coffey, Program Services Administrator, nominated JVS and also presented the award. What began with a brief phone call in a very difficult situation has evolved into a strong and growing partnership with Butler County DD. It reflects a shared commitment to those we serve, and a lot of hard work on everyone's part. We are incredibly proud of all our Butler County staff, who succeed each day with providing excellent and quality services to those we serve. Well done!

STAFF REVEALED

Marge Selm began with JVS four years ago. She is one of our program aides in the Adult Day Service program. Marge says she enjoys helping and becoming acquainted with all the individuals she serves.

Prior to JVS, Marge worked two part-time jobs each day. She worked with Kindergarteners in the morning and worked with seniors in the afternoon. Fifteen years later, Marge decided on one full time job with JVS!

Marge says she focuses a lot of her creativity and work time on arts & crafts. She even designed the bulletin board behind her in the picture to the right. One thing that she enjoys the most are the field trips she gets to take individuals on (who wouldn't right?).



Outside of JVS, Marge enjoys playing the Dulcimer (check it out on Wikipedia). Marge was born and raised in Milford (on a farm we might add), and continues to live there. She's married and has two boys and a girl. Marge enjoys spending time with her three grandsons as well. Thanks for all you do Marge!

NEW STAFF FOR SUPPORTIVE HOME SERVICE



New to the Supportive Home Service group is Lisa Bonn. Lisa grew up right in JVS Rossplain's backyard. She's a graduate of the Sycamore school district and received a Psychology degree from the University of Cincinnati. After graduation, Lisa called the US Virgin Islands her home for several years. She's back in Cincinnati, and we're thrilled to have her here at JVS! Upward and onward Lisa!

CONSUMER DIARIES:

SHERIDA CLARKE



February

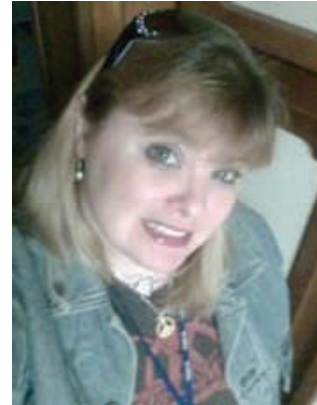
Even though February is over with, I thought I'd let you know what February means to me!

February may be the shortest month of the year, but at least we are able to acknowledge and celebrate who we are today. There was a time when we had to be in the back looking to the front. Thanks to Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and several other people, we don't have to use different water fountains or eat in the back of restaurants (even eat there for that matter).

We can now choose where we want to sit on the bus. They were very strong people who stood up for our freedom so that we can have the opportunity to do what we would like to do today. Now we have our first black President of the United States of America. Some came from the back, to the front of the White House.

I hope that one day we won't have to worry about what month it is to celebrate us. We can just appreciate each other for our differences and truly embrace change.

CONSUMER DIARIES: MELONY REASTER



Spring is here!

Spring is one of the four temperate seasons, the transition period between winter and summer. It's days are close to twelve hours long with increasing day length. This occurs near the time of an equinox. In the Northern Hemisphere, spring runs from March until May. In the Southern Hemisphere, it runs from September until November. Spring is also the season for tropical cyclones in both hemispheres. It is however, delayed longer in the north Atlantic ocean than the other ocean basins.

In spring, the axis of the earth is increasing its tilt toward the sun, and the length of daylight rapidly increases for the relevant hemisphere. The hemisphere begins to warm significantly causing new plant growth to "spring forth", giving the season its name.

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Spring, to me, is a beautiful season, a time of newness. It's like nature is waking up from her winter nap. Everything starts to come alive. Flowers spring fourth with their vivid colors, surrounded in a sea of green grass giving a touch of beauty and elegance to the earth.

The weather gets warmer with the sun making more of an appearance. The sky becomes bluer, and insects and other animals emerge from their winter slumber. Trees regain their fullness and their color, topping off this magnificent scene.

Spring also represents a renewing of one's spirit. People seem to become happier and have better moods. Research has shown that our bodies need sunlight to help stimulate the chemicals that help life moods. Saturday, March 20, was the first day of spring in 2010 in the Northern Hemisphere. This is known as the Vernal Equinox. Simultaneously, places in the Southern Hemisphere observe the Autumnal Equinox.

Some towns celebrate the coming of spring. I celebrate spring by wearing bright colors and decorating my house with brightly colored flowers. Falls is calm, winter is resting period, spring is a rebirth, and summer is a celebration.



## Jewish Vocational Service

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4300 Rossplain Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45236

Phone: 513-985-0515  
Fax: 513-793-5211



### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Jewish Vocational Service will be opened for each weekday of March & April. Please call 985-0515 if you have questions about our programming schedule! Happy Passover and Happy Easter!

WE'RE ON THE WEB:  
[WWW.JVSCINTI.ORG](http://WWW.JVSCINTI.ORG)

## REFERRAL INFORMATION

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**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).

**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).