



# JVS SPOTLIGHT

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 100

MAY 2009

## JVS HOSTS INTERNATIONAL JVS CONFERENCE



*It's a group shot of Cincinnati JVS's finest. Left to right standing, JVS President Peter Bloch, Shannon Johnson, Barry Wolfson, Rich Davis, Larry Brown, Kim Slaton. Seated L to R, Vicki Strole, Chrissy Perkins, Christine Mason, and Charlotte Alexander.*

The Cincinnati Jewish Vocational Service was proud to host the annual International Association of Jewish Vocational Services Conference this May 17-19 at the Hilton Netherland Plaza. The IAJVS is a not-for-profit association that links twenty-eight health and human service agencies in the United States, Canada, and Israel to provide a wide range of educational, vocational, and rehabilitative services. The Cincinnati Jewish Vocational Service is a long-time member of the association, and Cincinnati JVS staff led a number of the seminars.

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JVS President, Peter Bloch and Randi Bloch proudly display Mr. Bloch's IAJVS Award, the 2009 Bernie Rosenthal Executive Director Award. Congratulations Mr. Bloch! The award is even more meaningful, as Mr. Bloch knew and worked with Mr. Rosenthal for many years. Mr. Rosenthal was Cincinnati JVS President until 1998.

## Wheels For Wishes 2009



*Pictured above are Steven Hammond and Keith Hammond, CARA Vice-President at the 2009 event. As Steven found out, closing your eyes and wishing won't make Keith go away. If only it were so easy! Keith's daughter, Hillary, was busy stuffing the door prize jar with her name. Michael Flannery got suspicious when the first three names he drew were "Hillary Hammond." Ah, kids!*

### WHEELS FOR WISHES 2009

It was a delightful sunny morning on Saturday, April 25, 2009. It was a beautiful day for the Fourth Annual Wheels For Wishes event sponsored by the Community Ambassadors Resource Alliance group (CARA). Many adults, children, and pets attended to partake of the walking trail, the accessible playground, the Fire Engine, the brand new METRO bus display, as well as to enjoy time with friends. We thank all who attended and the many volunteers who helped make the event happen so nice and orderly. Special thanks should go to Michael Flannery for emceeding the event.

As many of you know CARA raises funds to distribute to individuals served by Hamilton County MR/DD, things to help them more fully participate and integrate into the community of their choice. This year, Wheels For Wishes raised \$3100 for individuals we serve, all of which will be distributed to them throughout the rest of the year. Jewish Vocational Service was proud to be a "Big Wheel" sponsor for the CARA group fundraiser.

## JVS STAFF SUPPORT NAMI WALK



The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has an annual walk-a-thon to raise funds to help serve people with brain disorders (mental illnesses). JVS staff are always happy to participate and did so on Saturday, May 9, 2009.. The sun was out and it was a beautiful day!! During the 3-5 mile walk, JVS helped raise a lot of money to support people with mental illness needs. Hamilton County Commissioner David Pepper was honorary chair of the event. Pictured below are several JVS staff and friends who had a great time participating in the event. Our thanks as always to Bernice Bingman for organizing the staff and getting a great turnout!

Amongst the people in this JVS group, in the top row, first person you see is Bernice Bingman, JVS Case Manager, and the main organizer of all JVS efforts with the NAMI Walk each and every year!



Thanks to the following JVS staff for participating:

Brandon Whiting, Ann Monkelban, Bernice Bingman, John Erpelding, Nickie Burlile, and Patti Dunbar! Great job!

## NEW ADDITION TO THE JVS TEAM

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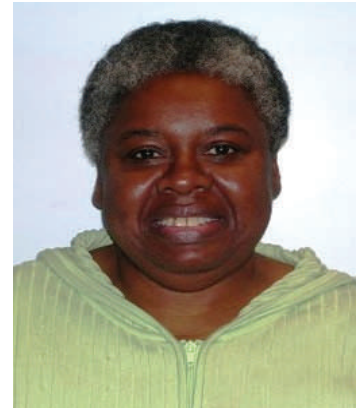
JVS wants to welcome new Supportive Home Service staff member Mabelle Goodwin. Mabelle has worked with the senior citizen population in various places such as a Senior Center and Meals on Wheels. She is very energetic and always can be found in good spirits. Mabelle is a very reliable worker. She has already made a mark in Supportive Home Service establishing positive relationships with individuals, families, guardians, and caregivers. Mabelle reports to Sue Buenavides and Virginia Gilbert. We welcome her to JVS and are thrilled to have her as a part of the Kidd Award winning SHS team!

And, if that isn't enough, we have a great addition to our team at JVS Therapeutic Social and Recreation on the West Side. Our newest program aide is named Tammy Smith. Tammy is married and moved from Florida two years ago to be nearer her brother Everett Woodall. She is thrilled to report that her son has recently been accepted to NASCAR Technical Institute (Tickets, maybe??). After spending some time working in insurance, this is Tammy's first experience working in the DD field. And, naturally, she reports she loves it! Welcome Tammy!!



*Tammy Smith (Left)*

*Mabelle Goodwin (Right)*

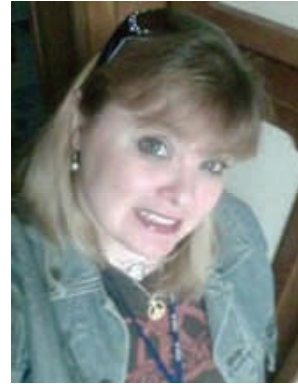


As much as we enjoy hellos, we are equally saddened by goodbyes. We were sad to see long-time JVS staff, Wayne McCray retire on 5/14/09. Wayne had been with JVS for about fifteen years. He retired as facilities manager, one of several things Wayne did while at JVS. He was always behind the scenes, but no one cared more or did more nice things (out of the spotlight) for individuals at JVS. He got food for people, he bought clothes for people, and he did what he could to provide work opportunities for people. He was a friend to all and someone we will all miss dearly! We wish Wayne McCray a Happy Retirement! And, visit often!!



# CONSUMER DIARIES:

## MELONY REASTER



**Elizabeth Cotton:** People come in and out of our lives all the time. Some stay longer than others, but each person comes in and always leaves their mark on our hearts by giving their friendship. It could be as big as a long lasting friendship, or just a simple smile and wave. I first met Elizabeth in high school. She was very friendly and we quickly became friends. I don't remember a lot about back then, but I do remember our friendship. She always had a big smile on her face. I hung out with her a lot and she even invited me to come with her to meet her family and go with her to her friendship group. She even went to a wrestling match with me.

As school ended, we fell out of touch. Years later I was to meet her again at JVS. As soon as I saw her, she said "I remember you!". "Yeah, I remember you too! We went to school together" I said back. We sometimes worked on the same lines and would always talk. We both worked out at Gorilla Glue, a JVS Enclave. We had lunch together and she would tell me all about her animals. We also went to the Starfire Friendship Group.

I remember every morning as we rode in Harry's van to Gorilla Glue, when we would pass her street, she would always say goodbye to her dogs and say "I'll be home soon". She loves her animals and would talk about them a lot. When I started working at the YMCA, I didn't see her that much, but when I did she would always smile and say "Hi Melony!". She was a really good friend and a very nice person.

When I heard of her passing, I was in shock, because I had just seen her the day before. Elizabeth was a really good friend and I will miss her smiling face and outgoing personality. Elizabeth really made her mark on me and a lot of other people. I know heaven has a new spunk angel named Elizabeth.

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God looked around his garden and found an empty place.  
 He then looked down upon the earth and saw your tired face.  
 He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest.  
 God's garden must be beautiful, He always takes the best.  
 He saw the road was getting rough and the hills were hard to climb.  
 So he closed your weary eyelids and whispered "Peace be thine" .  
 It broke our hearts to lose you  
 But didn't go alone, for part of us went with you  
 The days God called you home . . . . .



**In loving memory of Elizabeth B Cotton**  
**September 4, 1972—April 1, 2009**

## Jewish Vocational Service

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Cincinnati, OH 45236

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

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Jewish Vocational Service will be closed on May 25th for Memorial Day. We will be open all of June 2009. Please call 985-0515 if you have questions about our programming schedule!

Please everyone have a happy and safe Memorial Day! And, enjoy the end of school and the start of summer in June!!!



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).

*Robin Totsch* is the contact for all JVS-Butler County sites, including the Fairfield and Hamilton Employment Centers and Work Crews. Robin's office is at 3400 Symmes Road; Hamilton, OH 45015 and she can be reached at 513-744-2500 or [rtotsch@jvscinti.org](mailto:rtotsch@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).