



JVS SPOTLIGHT

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JVS/WENDY'S BURGER BASHES FOR THE LEVY



Pictured above: Cheryl Phipps, Superintendent of the Hamilton County Board of MR/DD, Peter Bloch, President of JVS, Wendy (Last name unknown: presumably Thomas), and Barry Wolfson, JVS Manager.

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Jewish Vocational Service was proud to combine forces with Wendy's Restaurants in the Greater Cincinnati Area to host Burger Bashes to raise awareness and money for Issue 5, the Hamilton County MR/DD Levy. JVS staff worked the Burger Bashes on September 30 and October 22 at eight different Wendy's restaurants. JVS employees helped pass out literature about issue 5 and helped raffle off gifts to happy Wendy's patrons. The Burger Bashes ran from 4PM-8PM, and 20% of the proceeds during those hours were donated to the People for MR/DD Services. We were very happy to have a chance to discuss the importance of issue 5 with people we normally don't get to encounter. We wish to thank everyone from JVS who participated as well as all our friends from Hamilton County Board of MR/DD. A special thanks goes to the staff at the following Wendy's for helping make some great evenings: 7289 Kenwood, 8240 Vine St., 9537 Mangham Dr., 2238 Beechmont Ave., 5066 Delhi Rd., 3640 Harrison Ave., 11898 Chase Plaza Dr., and 4474 Montgomery Rd. More gracious hosts we could not have asked for! Thanks again and please visit those fine Wendy's in the future!

LEVY TALKS 2009

The following is a story about a speaking engagement to advocate for issue 5, with highlights from two of the speakers, Sue and Kolet Buenavides. For those who haven't had the privilege to speak for the Levy, this gives a good account of one such event.

Sue Buenavides, JVS supervisor for Supportive Home Service and her daughter, Service Facilitator, Kolet Buenavides, were asked to assist HCBMRDD Superintendent Cheryl Phipps at a Levy speaking engagement on 9/22/09. The audience was the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Both Sue and Kolet were really excited to assist this very important cause: The Hamilton County Board of MRDD Levy. They were also extremely nervous, and sat together writing the speeches over and over again (and practicing over and over again).

The format was as follows: Cheryl Phipps would discuss the facts of the Levy. Kolet Buenavides would talk about her job as a service facilitator, and Sue Buenavides would talk about JVS, as one of the Board's contracted agencies.

When Sue Buenavides prepared her speech, she called many people to get information and numbers for JVS. She also called a friend who speaks Spanish fluently and memorized the Spanish phrase which simply means "we thank you for your support and your yes on Issue 5 for the Hamilton County Board of MRDD Service Levy."

Kolet Buenavides reported "After several hours of preparation for the speaking engagement, we got in our cars and still practiced our speeches on the way there. My mom was busy memorizing the speech and especially the Spanish phrase. When we all gathered together at the location, there were many friendly people and food served."

As the meeting started, Cheryl Phipps (see picture below) talked about the increased number of individuals served at the Hamilton County Board of MRDD (45% overall). Since 2004, the number of people served increased from 5500 to 8000. For children up to the age of 22, the increase has been tremendous: from 555 to 2260! That's a 307% increase. Reasons for this growth include medical advances that are prolonging life and keeping infants alive that wouldn't have lived a generation ago, aging parents that need services for children who they have cared for previously, and growth in the number of children diagnosed with autism. The HCBMR/DD Levy supplies 73% of the agency's operating funds.

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A SAD PASSING

It is with much sadness that we report Helen Miller passed away September 28th at Jewish Hospital. She has been in the Supportive Home Service program and had been a participant in the Adult Day Program for many years. She always enjoyed all the activities and working part time when she could. Helen will be greatly missed by all. We pass along our condolences to her family and many friends.

WELCOME MICHELLE!



We would like to welcome Michelle Corliss to the Adult Day Service Program and to JVS. Michelle is the new Supervisor of the Adult Day Service Program, and reports to its Manager, Virginia Gilbert. Michelle gets to use her gerontology and pastoral care degrees in this role. She has previously taught high school for twenty years. She considers her new job just as challenging, but has “never enjoyed a job more.” Welcome Michelle!

STAFF REVEALED

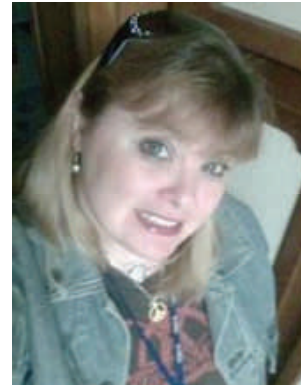
Angela Vantrease, Case Manager at the JVS Employment Center, has been with the company for two years (since JVS assumed operation of former Connex programs). She has worked in this field for five years now and enjoys every bit of it. She says she really enjoys the energy the consumers have. “They are so fun to be around; their positive attitude and acceptance of others is so great”. You can tell her love for the consumers she has by looking at her office door, which always has pictures they have drawn.



She says she loves working for JVS and of course, really enjoys working with the staff at the Employment Center. Angela says she has a great team behind her and everyone is willing to step outside the box. Angela has a fervent passion for our population and it shows! She does a great job and we really appreciate her!

CONSUMER DIARIES:

MELONY REASTER



October is upon us with her cool crisp weather. We say good bye to the hot, sticky, summer weather and slowly but surely the weather gets cool. The days get shorter and the nights seem to get a bit longer. The leaves start falling and changing their colors. The leaves turn into beautiful reddish, gold, and orange colors. And when I think of fall, the first thing that comes to mind is Halloween!

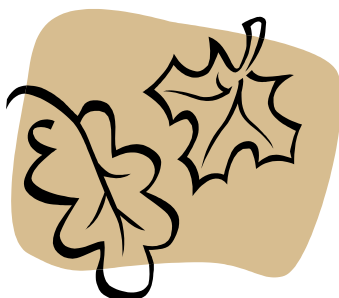
Halloween is an annual celebrating, but just what is it actually a celebration of? And how did this peculiar custom originate? Is it as some claim, a kind of demon worship? Or is it just a harmless vestige of some ancient pagan ritual?

The word itself, Halloween, actually has its origins in the Catholic Church. It comes from a contracted corruption of *All Hallows Eve*. November 1, All Hollows Day (or *All Saints Day*), is a Catholic day of observance in honor of saints. But, in the 5th century B.C., in Celtic Ireland, summer officially ended on October 31. The holiday was called Samhain (sow-en), the Celtic New Year.

The symbol that we all associate with Halloween is the pumpkins. I love to see pumpkins on people's porches!! Did you know that before pumpkins were used people used turnips?! The Irish used turnips as their "Jack's lanterns" originally. When the immigrants came to America, they found that pumpkins were far more plentiful than turnips. So, the Jack-O-Lantern was a hollowed-out pumpkin, lit with an ember.



Although some cults may have adopted Halloween as their favorite "holiday", the day itself did not grow out of evil practices. It grew out of the rituals of Celts celebrating a new year, and out of Medieval prayer rituals of Europeans. Today, many churches have Halloween parties or pumpkin carving events for kids. After all, the day itself is only as evil as one cares to make it . . .



Why do leaves change their colors?

A substance called chlorophyll makes leaves green. In autumn, the tree stops producing chlorophyll so the green in the leaves fade. The colors, which were hidden by the green, can now be seen. During the late fall, most of the leaves of deciduous trees fall off. This is nature's way of protecting the tree during the winter months.

Levy Talks 2009 (continued from page 2)

Ms. Phipps also talked about self determination. This means that wishes, desires, needs, and choices of individuals and their families drive what kind of services they receive, how they receive them, and who delivers them. She also talked about the dozens of community partners that the agency contracts with, which includes Jewish Vocational Service..

Lastly, Ms. Phipps spoke about how Hamilton County Board of MRDD stands out and has been recognized statewide and nationally for the great things the agency is doing. The agency played a pivotal role in the new legislation that will eliminate the words “Mental Retardation” from the agency’s name (a change that will be effective November 4, 2009, after Issue 5 gets passed on November 3, 2009).

Kolet Buenavides spoke about her role as a service facilitator. She noted she was proud to be part of the agency. Kolet also said, “I talked about the inspiration that the individuals have sparked in me: their success stories and their struggles. I talked briefly about our strategic plan called What Matters Most. We spent almost a year in late 2007 and early 2008 listening to people with disabilities and their families and other members of our community tell us what matters most to people with disabilities in Hamilton County. The five themes are making my house my home, getting where I want to go, experiencing respect and participating in community life, having positive relationships with friends and family, and planning for the future. Those will be our priority area for the next 15 years.”

Lastly, Sue Buenavides (picture below) spoke about the services offered through JVS. She talked about the programs that have won recognition and that she had direct experiences with: Supportive Home Services and the Adult Day Services. She also shared success stories of the individuals as they learn new things (such as the lady who learned to write her name for the first time in her 70’s, and is so proud to show it off to anyone around). Sue talked about her previous job experiences and her career with working with people not just with MRDD, but other social service agencies in her home country, the Philippines. To the audience’s delight, she ended it with the Spanish phrase that asked the members of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to support Issue 5 on November 3, 2009.

This is just one of several speaking engagements that JVS staff participated in the past two months. We especially thank Kolet and Sue Buenavides for assistance in preparation of this article! Staff at JVS were all thrilled to help share the importance of the Hamilton County Board of MRDD Service Levy, and grateful for opportunities to do so. Thank you!



Jewish Vocational Service

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WE'RE ON THE WEB:
WWW.JVSCINTI.ORG

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Jewish Vocational Service will be opened for all the rest of October. We will be open each week-day in November with the exception of Thanksgiving and the Friday after Thanksgiving. Please call 985-0515 if you have questions about our programming schedule!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!!!!



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. 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.

Robin Totsch is the contact for all JVS-Butler County sites, including the Fairfield and Symmes Road 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.

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.