

Tony's Column

Dear Friends,

Welcome House is off to a great start in 2013! We currently serve 150 individuals each day with a staff of over 300. Through our growth we have remained dedicated to the core values on which this organization was built. We are committed to creating a supportive atmosphere in which our clients can develop independence and a sense of competence by experiencing success both at home and in the community.

In order to effectively do this, we rely on the input of family members. I personally make it my job to listen to the families and, when appropriate, make informed changes to our programs and services based on family recommendations.

Recently we have had many requests from families to revamp our menus. My

staff and I have engaged the services of a certified dietician to lead this process, and are thrilled with the results! The dietician has created a new Welcome House Dietary Manual, sample daily and weekly menus, and even recipes to accompany the menus. The menus offer clients great choice, but are largely built around fresh ingredients, eliminating processed, pre-prepared foods. By increasing fresh foods, fruits and vegetables we believe we will increase the health of our clients!

Over the next few months we will be working with the direct service staff to help them implement the new guidelines. If you have any favorite recipes, please send them my way!

Thank you for your continued support of Welcome House. Please "friend" us on Facebook and check our new website regularly for updates and photos of all of our activities!

Sincerely,

Executive Director

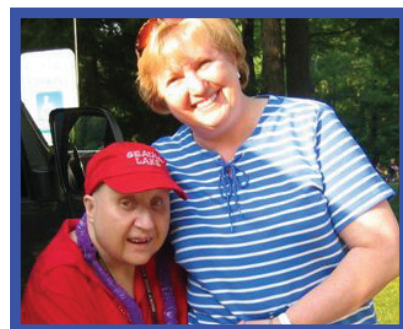


Welcome House

Hiring Good Nurses!

Do you have a background in nursing and would like to work with individuals with developmental disabilities? Welcome House is hiring full and part-time RNs, LPNs, and STNAs.

If you are interested, please call Sanaata Cornwell at 440-356-2330, ext. 225 or email her at scornwell@welcomehouseinc.org.



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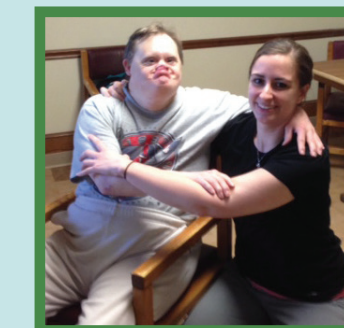
To be a nurse is
to be a champion...
in more ways
than one!



Advocate. Champion.
Caring. Concerned.
Nurturing.

Not only are these adjectives of Susan Collins, the nurse, but life missions of Susan Collins.

The new Director of Nursing for Welcome House, Susan has made it her mission to serve as an advocate for clients so that they can receive optimum health care. "This is a very important part of my job," said Susan. "While our clients lead full and independent lives, they do need someone who can rally for them when it comes to issues that they cannot champion for themselves. This is the most rewarding part of my job."



... they do
need someone
who can rally
for them...

Susan further expands her role in her clients' medical needs by addressing medical concerns to family members and staff members to ensure that everything is coordinated and covered. "Since the majority of our clients are residents, family members find great value in communicating with staff members and knowing that their valued family members are receiving the utmost care and compassion. I have been told that it brings them much peace."

"We always have to recruit people that not just share your vision but also see the need for changing the organization and expanding services in different directions," said Tony Thomas, executive director of Welcome House. "Susan is an exemplary example of this and has been an unbelievable addition to our staff!"

Parkwood Guys Get a New Home

After living together for more than 7 years, Bill, Gary, J Scott & Stan were not willing to separate. However, with each new repair needed to their aging Lakewood house, the four friends became increasingly eager to move. Jay, the group's vocal advocate, called Tony Thomas on countless occasions to discuss what they should do . . . All of their lobbying paid off! In April these four—who still insist on being called the Parkwood Guys—will move into a new home on Dover Center Road in Westlake, thanks to a generous grant from the West Haven Foundation. During the house hunting process, these four made sure to have their needs and wishes known—a porch, a back yard with a place for a garden, and a fireplace for Santa to come down! And they are thrilled with the outcome—so thrilled that after endless hugs J Scott almost cried!



Bill, Gary, J Scott & Stan

These four men are inseparable, and they each have a role in their home. Stan has taken it upon himself to make sure the staff know exactly where everything belongs—He will make sure the move goes without a hitch! And he can't wait to show off his new house to girlfriend Leone. He and Gary have lived together for 15 years, and Stan couldn't imagine life without Gary's world-famous pancakes! Gary, not surprisingly, is most excited about the new kitchen. Bill moved into Parkwood House with Gary and Stan about 10 years ago. He

loves to bowl, and is excited that the new house is right down the street from his mother. J Scott, the newcomer who joined the group 7 years ago, is the resident social butterfly. He will be attending the Welcome House Community Center during the day which is right down the street.

The new move has not gone without worry—The four friends worried that their beloved staff wouldn't make the move with them, and were so relieved to find out they would! And the new van they use better make the move too . . . Or else Tony Thomas will be getting more calls from J Scott!

Trustee Spotlight: Todd Carmel



Welcome House and West Haven are fortunate to have a committed group of volunteer leaders guiding the organization. West Haven Board President Todd Carmel is an example of the dedicated volunteers engaged in ensuring the ongoing success of Welcome House.

During his 15 year tenure on the Board, Todd has served in just about every capacity available to trustees! He has utilized his extensive background as a financial advisor to guide the growth of West Haven assets through the creation of an Investment Committee and by developing investment policies. Todd has introduced countless people to the agency—as donors, volunteers, clients, and service providers. He chaired the 40th Anniversary Celebration at Brothers Lounge, and his passion for golf led to the creation of the Annual Welcome House Golf Outing that through the years has raised over \$200,000 for the agency!



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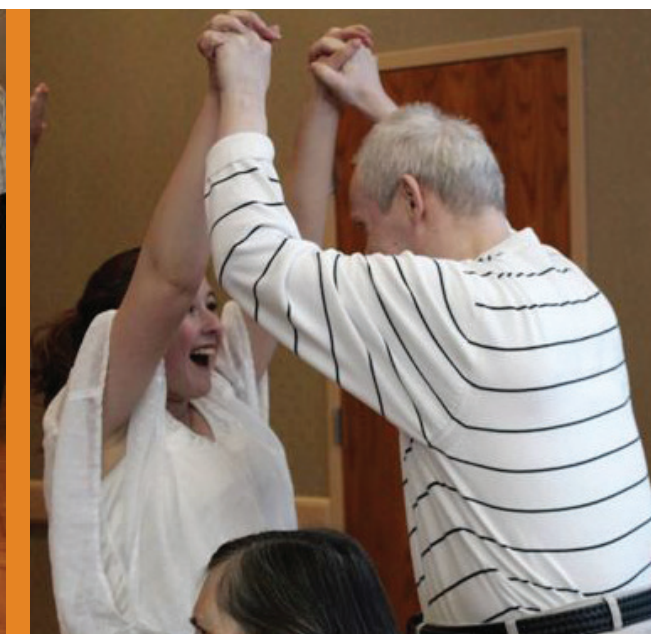
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SPRING 2013

Welcome news



Welcome House
Opening doors for people with
developmental disabilities



Annual Dinner Dance Draws Huge Crowd!

The Annual Welcome House Dinner Dance was held Friday, April 5 at Rocky River Memorial Hall. Over 150 clients were joined by the Welcome House staff for a night of dining and dancing to music played by DJ Jim Shelburne.

Program Director Bobbi Burkey planned the special evening, even creating unique centerpieces for each table. "This is one of my favorite events all year!" she gushed. "Everyone dressed up, dancing and having fun. It doesn't get better!"

Executive Director Tony Thomas served as maitre d' and head waiter, leading a team of volunteer staff members who served the clients. Clients barely waited for the tables to be cleared before the dancing to all-time favorite Michael Jackson music began!

For more photos of the dinner dance and the Annual Bowling Banquet, please check out our website!

Visit our
new website!

www.welcomehouseinc.org

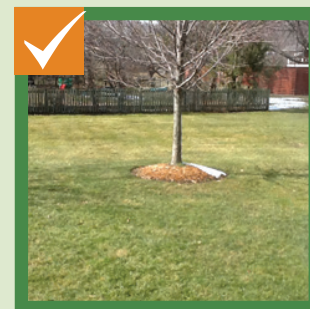


... and "Friend" us
on Facebook to see photos
of all of our activities!

The Checklist



A porch



Back yard with a
place for a garden



Fireplace for Santa
to come down!