

That's Providence Center

Shaping Lives, Creating Futures.

Published by Providence Center

Fall 2013

Best Buddies Program

Creates Friendships and the Hope of Lasting Bonds



Best Buddies are being made through a partnership between Providence Center and Midshipmen.

Sitting in the stands at Naval Stadium recently were two new friends cheering on the Midshipmen and enjoying another home game win for the pride of Annapolis. They were just like any of the other fans at the game except they were brought together by the Midshipmen Action Group Chapter of Best Buddies, a program that started a little over a year ago that brings participating Academy students together with individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities to build the strong bonds of friendship. Providence Center participants became involved in the new program earlier this year.

According to Brendan McNickle, a program manager for the organization, Best Buddies is an international non-profit that was founded in 1989. Best Buddies Maryland is run out of a Baltimore office and has been in existence since 1995. Currently, Best Buddies Maryland oversees 75 school chapters at the middle school, high school, and college levels. The mission of Best Buddies is to establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In the short time since the chapter's founding, more than 70 Midshipmen have signed up for the program, actively engaging and getting to know Providence Center participants through various events like a recent cookout at Langton Green, a Halloween dance, and bowling.

Jake Williams, a junior at the Academy from Kansas City, who became familiar with Best Buddies from a friend and helped found the Midshipmen Chapter, began to see the positive returns for everyone in the program from the beginning.

"After just a few events I have seen Midshipmen and their buddies become much more comfortable with each other," Williams said. "Midshipmen have been meeting their buddies outside of our events on their own—several buddies have gone out to lunch or out to see movies at the mall."

Providence Center's person-centered approach seeks to empower those we serve by supporting them to direct their own lives. To do so, each individual needs to build a circle of support – those that can help guide, mentor, and be a sounding board for the challenges and successes that a full life provides. Having friendships is a key component to person-centered planning since friends are a natural part of most people's support system.

Currently 45 men and women from Providence Center are involved with Best Buddies.

Tom McQuillan, Director of Providence Center's Jean Bradbury Building, believes very strongly in the program. "It's so important for people with disabilities to have real friendships, not surrounded by just family and people that are only paid to do so," McQuillan said. "These are real relationships that are developing, real friendships that we all deserve. This is a mutually enriching program for everyone involved."

Midshipmen Chapter member Williams agreed, stressing that the Midshipmen are gaining the comradery and support they need as well.

...continued on page 2



Chuck's Notes

From the desk of Chuck Coble, CEO

It's the time of year where we are asked to think about what we are thankful for and what we want for the year ahead. This is a good opportunity to talk about what we know as fact – that the work of Providence Center, and more importantly, assisting those we serve to live a life of their own

choosing, cannot be done in a vacuum. It takes the collaborative efforts of others for our mission of greater independence for those with developmental disabilities to be a reality.

In October, we held our annual fall event. It's always a great evening that raises important funds for our programs and services. The last couple of years though we have also used the occasion to honor individuals who are truly making a positive difference in the lives we serve or on behalf of us as an organization. This year we honored four people, including a tireless supporter of ours, Dave Chisholm with Revere Bank, and Chuck Goodman, our Board of Directors

...continued on page 4

Providence Center Seeks to Expand Product Market

Ask Kathy Middlebrooks about Providence Center products and she can rattle off the long list of what participants make, each piece's price, where they are sold, and the benefits of purchasing the organization's plants, flowers, pottery, and wood items. She has quickly grown into her position as Production Sales Manager and is working to make Providence Center's products as well-known as the big brands in stores.

Providence Center offers unique skill building programs at our Pottery Studio, Woodshop, and Horticulture Greenhouses and Garden. Nearly 100 participants are enrolled in the programs, hand-crafting or hand-growing a range of products, which are then sold to the public. Each participant earns a paycheck for their work, assisting the men and women in the programs to gain greater independence in their lives.

"Providence Center sells products which are beautiful for any home or business," Middlebrooks says as she maps out her day, visiting local businesses pitching them to carry the organization's products. "It's an easy sell because they are well-made and each piece is one-of-a-kind. I am enjoying going to small business owners and bigger stores to expand the reach of our products."

Middlebrooks works closely with each program and retail partners to ensure that the logistics of the production process is flowing smoothly and the end user remains happy. She communicates to retailers that the participants who make each item have a sense of pride in the work they do.

"Each product empowers a life. I always invite everyone I speak with to visit our programs to see how enriching it is for our potters, woodworkers, and growers to show off the final product," Middlebrooks says with a smile.

Middlebrooks will be working to grow the number of retail partners statewide. To compliment her efforts, Providence Center will also be launching its online store in time for the holiday season.

Director of Community Relations Audra Harrison said that the e-commerce store on the organization's website will market the products beyond those that are familiar with Providence Center's work.

"We know there is a big market for these products and we will be working hard to make sure that everyone knows what we offer and the success stories behind every mug, bowl, plant, and Adirondack



Kathy Middlebrooks and Pottery Manager Tom Wright at the Severna Park Chamber of Commerce Holiday Trade Show.

chair," Harrison said. "Purchasing from Providence Center is a win-win all around – where customers get wonderful products and those who create them are creating the life that they want for themselves."

Seasonal offerings from the horticulture program include poinsettias, trees, pine roping, and wreaths. To learn more, contact Kathy Middlebrooks at kmiddlebrooks@providencecenter.com or at (410)766-2212 ext. 411 or visit our Greenhouses at 370 Shore Acres Road in Arnold. Holiday hours are Monday – Friday 8 AM – 8 PM starting on December 2nd, Saturday, December 7th and 14th 11 AM – 8 PM, Sunday, December 8th and 15th 10 AM – 5 PM, and Saturday, December 21st 10 AM – 2 PM. Pottery and wood items will also be available.

To purchase online, visit www.providencecenter.com and click the "Store" tab.

That's Providence Center will feature participants, staff, employers, or people in the community that inspire and empower us. Nominate the person you think is helping Providence Center advance its mission and tell us why you think they should be featured in our Providence Profile. Send your nomination to Audra Harrison, Director of Community Relations, at aharrison@providencecenter.com.

Best Buddies Program, *continued from page 1*

"It is easy to slip into a cynical mindset in the Academy's stressful environment," Williams stated. "Opportunities like Best Buddies remind us of how fortunate we are to be going to this school in the name of service to our country. Having the opportunity to hang out with our buddies grounds us back in the real world—reminding us that there are other important things in this world besides our next homework assignment, exam, sports competition, or physical fitness test."

Patty Worff, a Providence Center participant, met her buddy at the kick-off event in August. According to her parents Pat and Ed,

Patty is participating in events outside of her residential program and meeting new people. The family is familiar with Best Buddies because their granddaughter was a buddy for an individual with disabilities in Montgomery County. When contacted, the Worffs had just received an email from Patty's buddy inviting her to a men's basketball game at the Academy for the coming weekend.

"It's opening a new world. She is doing things with a new circle of friends. Patty's always trying new things and this is an extension of her open attitude, taking risks, and building a life of her own," Ed Worff said.

From Greenhouse to Showcase



Anne Arundel County Executive Laura Neuman visited the renovated greenhouse on a recent tour with Horticulture Manager Nathan Ullrich.

Turning onto Shore Acres Road from College Parkway, it is hard to miss the glass greenhouse structure outside of the Jean Bradbury Building in Arnold. The two-story structure, built more than 30 years ago, is unique in its glass design and German architecture. It's a special landmark but what happens inside of those panes of glass is even more extraordinary.

Providence Center's horticulture program has four greenhouses, but the glass house, known as Greenhouse A, is what sets it apart from others. Thanks to a grant from the Jesse and Hertha Adams Charitable Trust and the support of its trustees Carole and Carl Brudin and Brown Advisory, Greenhouse A recently received a major facelift and pruning of its own.

Over several months this spring and summer, construction workers painstakingly removed leaking glass panes one-by-one, installed new ventilation systems, watering systems, and a more accessible entrance for participants and guests with the installation of automated doors, and a new sink and eye washing station among the improvements.

Today, Greenhouse A can accommodate customers and growers year-round despite harsh weather conditions as a result of the renovations as well as enhanced safety and accessibility measures for participants in wheelchairs or with visual impairments.

Horticulture Manager Nathan Ullrich expressed gratitude for the renovations. "This renovation was much-needed and makes this a friendlier, healthier environment for what we grow, for participants, and for customers. We are truly grateful for the Adams Trust and their incredible support for the work we do," Ullrich stated.

The renovated greenhouse will also be used more regularly for Providence Center events, giving guests a distinctive and comfortable experience with clear views of the plants, sun, and stars.

"I like working in here so much better now," said Nathan MacDonald, a horticulture participant. "Even when it's cold out, it's nice in here."

Make Providence Center a Part of Your Legacy

Everyday, hundreds of families entrust their loved ones to the expert care of Providence Center. They know their son, daughter, sister, or brother will be happy, get the support they need to achieve all they want in life, and can look forward to a future full of promise. Our families can rest assured that we, as an organization, are committed to ensuring our vital services are available in the future, long after they may no longer be able to care for their loved ones.

As Providence Center looks ahead, we are working to build our endowment and remind our family how truly special a planned gift is. It is our hope that you, our supporters who have stood with us over the years, will think of our extraordinary adults through your estate planning.

Consider a planned gift to Providence Center. These forward thinking gifts are made to ensure your loved ones are taken care of and causes that are dear to you continue to make an impact in your community. Such a gift to Providence Center is an investment

in the lives of our extraordinary participants. A planned gift allows you to leave your legacy or memorialize a loved one in a way that's important to you and your family and there are tax advantages to making such a gift.

There are numerous ways to make a planned gift, from the straightforward bequest (leaving instructions in your will) or designating beneficiaries on your retirement assets, to more sophisticated instruments that pay you income while you are alive and then leave the remaining assets to a charity once you are gone. Your financial professional can provide you with information to help you choose the best option for you and your loved ones.

Providence Center is pleased to announce our Legacy Society created to honor those who have made this special type of investment in the future of those we serve. To learn more about Legacy giving, please call Aimee Bullen in our Development Office at 410-766-2212, ext. 110.

How Can I Help?

When you make a gift to Providence Center, whether it's a donation or the gift of volunteer time, you are helping to enrich the lives of 500 of our community's residents. There are many ways you can help the men and women with developmental disabilities who count on Providence Center.

Financial Support

- You can make a cash donation payable to Providence Center at 930 Point Pleasant Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060. **Don't forget to check to see if your employer has a matching gift program.** Donations can also be made by credit card. To process a credit card payment, call our Development Department at 410-766-2212, ext. 110. You can also go online at www.providencecenter.com and donate directly.
- You can donate stocks, bonds, real estate, and name the Center as the beneficiary on a life insurance policy. Contact your financial advisor to learn more about these and other options.
- Planned Giving can make a lasting impact that will serve the future of the Center. Planned gifts are ways a donor can leave money or assets to a nonprofit at his or her death; or a way to invest money so that the donor receives benefits during his or her life and then bequeaths the remaining funds to the nonprofit. To learn more, contact your financial advisor.

In-Kind Donations

Donations of goods and services allow the Center to allocate funds to other program needs. Examples include art supplies for our art program, lawn equipment for our Horticulture Program or medical supplies. Please call our Development Department for a list of desired items and services at (410)766-2212, ext 110.

Donate a Car

Providence Center's car donation program is ready to accept your vehicle in exchange for the tax benefits you will receive for donating to a registered non-profit organization. For more information on our car donation program, contact info@providencecenter.com or call Aimee Bullen, Development Manager, at (410)766-2212 ext. 110.

Gift of Time and Talent

Volunteers are a tremendous asset to our programs. You may have gardening skills to help in our greenhouses, an artistic flair to assist in our art program, an entrepreneurial spirit that can help a participant start his own business, or just the desire to be a friend to someone, spending time over lunch, working on the computer or reading. Volunteer with Providence Center and make a difference in the lives of adults with developmental disabilities.

Volunteers must be at least 16 and go through a background check. We are happy to work with eligible students fulfilling community service requirements but ask that they volunteer a minimum of 40 hours. For more information, please contact Erin Bishop at ebishop@providencecenter.com or at (410)766-2212, ext. 105.

Employer Charity Campaign

If your employer participates in the United Way's Maryland Charity Campaign, you can designate Providence Center as your beneficiary. **Providence Center's Maryland Charity Campaign number is #1256 and Combined Federal Charity Campaign number is #66186.**

Chuck's Notes, *continued from page 1*

President and President of CR Goodman Associates. Both have donated hundreds of volunteer hours and in many cases even more of their personal money to support what we do.

But I want to tell you about the two other honorees because I feel that they are at the direct core of Providence Center. We honored Richard Austin, a participant from our Pottery program, because of the tremendous strides he has made in his life to achieve his dreams and carve out the life that he wants for himself. Richard has been coming to Providence Center for more than 25 years. He has been in several of our programs and holds jobs in the community but has really found his niche at Pottery in the last few years. In fact, Richard has become the de facto manager of the program, ensuring that the products our potters produce are well made and that the production process moves smoothly. He takes great pride in his work, as he should, and serves as our quality control officer to make sure that our customers come back for more. He has become a leader.

We also honored a dedicated staff member: Fe Miranda. Fe has worked at our Jean Bradbury Building for several years and has become a mentor for other staff who learn so much from her example. Fe has a quiet, caring, wonderful way of challenging those she works with and getting them to push themselves closer to their goals. Fe was a teacher in her native Philippines and we see that background in her every day. She exemplifies the kind of person that we need doing this work and she is an inspiration to all those with whom she comes in contact.

We are thankful for everyone in the community, like Dave and Chuck, who recognizes how important these lives are and that they deserve what everyone else does – to be happy, have friends, find joy, and be who they want to be. We are also incredibly thankful for success stories like Richard and game-changers like Fe.

My wish for you is the same – that you may realize success, find the support you need to accomplish your goals, and a rich, full life in the year ahead.

"Sparks" Come Out for Providence Center's Fall Event



Dave and Kristi Pappas of Chiron served as presenting sponsor for "The Spark in All of Us."

Thank you to Chiron Technology Services and all of our sponsors, volunteers, and guests for making Providence Center's "Spark in All of Us" fall event a great success! Special thanks go to our event committee members **Colleen Baldwin, Jennifer Briemann, David Chisholm, Shannon Langsner DeLuca, Daphne Foreman, Robert Haines, and Carol Snyder** for all of their efforts on behalf of the incredible men and women we serve.

The event honored four "sparks" who are assisting those we serve and the mission of Providence Center. Honorees included: **Chuck Goodman**, President of Providence Center's Board of Directors and President of CR Goodman Associates, **David Chisholm**, Senior Vice President at Revere Bank and a long-time, dedicated member of Providence Center's event committee, **Richard Austin**, a participant who is achieving his goals and building a life of his own choosing, and **Fe Miranda**, a staff member who is quietly leading our staff through her caring and effective support to those she works with daily.



Like the other honorees, Fe Miranda was surprised to be honored as a "spark."



Event sponsors Art, Meredith, and Elizabeth Johnson enjoyed the evening's festivities.

Presenting Sponsors – Chiron Technology Services, Inc.

Gold Medal Sponsors – Richard J. Princinsky & Associates, A Division of USI Insurance Services, and Kaiser Permanente.

Silver Medal Sponsors – ARINC, BuilderGuru Contracting, Inc. and Gardiner & Gardiner Contracting LLC, Moran Insurance and Selective Insurance, and Revere Bank.

Bronze Medal Sponsors – Richard and Jennifer Briemann, Craftsmen Developers, Homeland Title & Escrow, Ltd, iCore Networks, Arthur and Meredith Johnson, Koons Toyota of Annapolis, Security Detection Monitoring Inc., and St. John Properties.

Entertainment Sponsors – Absolute Fire Protection, Anderson Minuteman Press, Chesapeake Employers' Insurance, Delta T, Frank and Chantal Dukette, Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc., Fleetpro, Inc., Happy Construction LLC, Koch Homes, Mullen, Sondberg, Wimbish, & Stone, P.A., and Dr. Poulton Dermatology, P.A..

Beverage Sponsors – Art at Large, Inc., Big Vanilla, Kathy Langsner, Coldwell Residential Brokerage, McCrone, Messick & Associates, Mobility Works, Rohrer Bus Sales, and Smith Mechanical.



CEO Chuck Coble honors Richard Austin.



Coble and Board President Chuck Goodman at the podium as Goodman received the final honor of the night for his leadership and advocacy of Providence Center.



Commemorative Gifts

This listing reflects commemorative gifts from
August 2, 2013 – November 1, 2013

In Memory of Vicki Long

Mr. William Bowen

In Memory of Linda Kelso

Ms. Linda Dodson

In Memory of Vicki Long

Mr. and Mrs. James Engle

In Memory of Kathleen Burke

Ms. Patricia Givens

In Memory of Vicki Long

Ms. Evelyn Johnson

In Memory of Lisa Johnson

Ms. Juanita Johnson

In Memory of Vicki Long

Mr. and Mrs. James McCrea

In Memory of Robert Szuba

Mr. and Mrs. William Rattigan

In Memory of Robert Szuba

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thorpe

In Memory of Robert Szuba

Mr. Chuck White

In Honor of Lisa Pizarro

Ms. Linda Crawford

In Honor of Andrew and Alex Jones

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gombatz

In Honor of Barbara Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gombatz

In Honor of John Hill

Ms. Patricia Hill

In Honor of Tom Horvat

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Horvat

In Honor of Taylor Comport

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McMahon

Retail Partners

The retailers below offer their customers our products while also assisting our participants gain greater independence by earning a paycheck through the sale of their work. Please consider supporting these new retailers that are supporting our important work.

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

www.cbmm.org
213 N Talbot St,
St Michaels, MD 21663
(410) 745-2916

Bay Country Market- Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay

www.chesapeakebay.hyatt.com
100 Heron Blvd,
Cambridge, MD 21613
(410) 901-1234

Anne Arundel Medical Center Gift Shop

2001 Medical Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
(443)481-1000

HERE. a pop up shop – visit their website or Facebook page for their location in December

443-676-8727
here.apopupshop@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/hereapopupshop
www.hereapopupshop.com

In the Community

Providence Center works to actively engage our participants in the community through our Supported Employment program with employment and volunteer positions. Thanks to all of our community partners and we hope that you will consider supporting those partners that support our important work. The following is a list of new employers since February 2013.

Honeysuckle Consignment
1584 Ritchie Highway
Arnold, MD 21012

Casey Cares
3918 Vero Road
Baltimore, MD 21227

Sunset Elementary
8572 Fort Smallwood Road
Pasadena, MD 21122

**Habitat for Humanity
Re-store**
8101 Fort Smallwood Road
Pasadena, MD 21226

**Books for International
Goodwill**
2000-B Capital Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chesapeake Treasures
562 Ritchie Highway
Severna Park, MD 21146

**The Way Homes
Consignment**
2406 Mountain Road
Pasadena, MD 21122

Papa John's Whitehall Rd
1578 Whitehall Rd
Annapolis, MD 21409

Papa John's Hillsmere Dr
125 Hillsmere Drive
Annapolis, MD 21403

Papa John's West Street
2029 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Giant Severna Park
573 Ritchie Highway #1
Severna Park, MD 21124

Chick Fil-A
511 Ritchie Highway
Severna Park, MD 21146

**Patuxent Animal Welfare
Society**
2319 D Forest Drive
Annapolis, MD 21403

Safeway
1451 S. Ritchie Hwy
Arnold, MD 21012

Announcements

❖ Congratulations to **Christen DeCicco, Toron Green, and Courtney Lee** for their recent promotions. Christen was promoted to Senior Mentor in Supported Employment. Toron was promoted to Lead Production Manager at Baldwin Industries. Courtney was promoted to Lead Mentor at Cloverleaf as well. Congratulations!

❖ Thank you to the **Jesse and Hertha Adams Charitable Trust** for their support of \$20,474.68 for our glass greenhouse renovation.

❖ Thank you to the **PNC Foundation** for their recent grant of \$7500 for the purchase of an interactive whiteboard, an important technological tool to assist many of our participants to learn and interact while building skills.

❖ Thank you to the **Rogers Wilbur Foundation** for its gift of \$1,000 for Providence Center's programs and services.

❖ Thank you to **Anne Arundel Community College** for its donation of native plants for our horticulture program.

❖ Thank you to the **Knights of Columbus Council # 5263** for their donation of \$571.90 for Providence Center's programs and services.

A full listing of donors will be featured in Providence Center's 2014 Annual Report.

Contracted Services at Baldwin Industries

Providence Center's Baldwin Industries is an innovative business entity that serves companies while supporting our participants. Baldwin operates as a subcontracting business providing a diverse range of services to businesses and agencies throughout the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area. These services include:

retail and wholesale packaging, product assembly, hand packaging, wafer sealing, heat sealing, delivery and pick-up, mass mailings, door hanger and flyer distribution, office cleaning, group enclaves for work at employers' sites and individual placement with supported employment services.

Do you have assembly or production work that Providence Center could help with?

Contact Nicholen at (410)766-2212 ext.302.



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 [ProvidenceCntr](https://twitter.com/ProvidenceCntr)

Save the Date!!

Holiday Sales at the Greenhouses

Holiday hours starting on December 2nd:
Monday – Friday 8 AM – 8 PM
Saturday, December 7th and 14th 11 AM – 8 PM
Sunday, December 8th and 15th 10 AM – 5 PM
Saturday, December 21st 10 AM – 2 PM
370 Shore Acres Road
Arnold, MD

Providence Center Kiwanis Aktion Club

Wednesday, December 4, 2013
Wednesday, February 5, 2014
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Cloverleaf Building
Millersville, MD

For more information, contact Rosemary Elger at
relger@providencecenter.com or at (410)766-2212 ext. 205

The mission of Providence Center is to provide services that allow individuals with disabilities to enjoy increased self-determination in leading a more independent, valuable and functioning role in society. These support services are individually designed and professionally managed to enable these individuals to exercise higher levels of control over their lives.

For more information on how you can help our participants achieve their dreams, contact Aimee Bullen in Providence Center's Development Department at (410)766-2212 ext. 110.

Providence Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered with the State of Maryland. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting us at 930 Point Pleasant Road, Glen Burnie, MD, 21060, 410-766-2212, ext 110. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State for the cost of copying and postage.