

That's Providence Center

Shaping Lives, Creating Futures.

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Whole Foods' Whole Team Approach



Whole Foods views its employees as part of a team and those organizations and companies that they partner with as extensions of that team. Its core values include a commitment to selling the highest quality natural and organic products and

caring for communities and the environment. As the company states, "we've proven that a company can do good and do well if the doing comes from the heart."

That core value is evidenced by Whole Foods Annapolis' partnership with Providence Center. With the passion of Susan Chaisson, Whole Body Team Leader, as the driving force, the store now located at the Annapolis Towne Center in Parole began offering its customers Providence Center products in 2009. From pottery to potted plants, as time has gone by, the partnership between the community-based non-profit and the community-minded company has grown and blossomed.

Asked how she came to link Providence Center and Annapolis Whole Foods together, Chaisson replied, "I have lived in the area for many years and have been a fan of the work Providence Center does within our community. I just wanted to help support the organization's mission. The best is when the clients come into

Whole Foods on a local vendor day. The pride in their work is wonderful."

"I wanted the Annapolis Whole Foods to focus on supporting local organizations and so many of our customers know and support Providence Center," Chaisson said. "They love being able to buy the pottery in Whole Foods."

Annapolis Whole Foods' support has introduced Providence Center to many new supporters as well. "They get to support a local nonprofit that benefits the entire community and have a beautiful gift to show for it," Chaisson added. "Customers look forward to a new shipment coming in, especially around the holidays. We have customers who always buy a piece of pottery for gifts." That's the mission of Whole Foods in practice.

Partnerships like that with Whole Foods assist Providence Center in communicating its mission to more people and demonstrating the skills and talents of its participants. Its production programs, pottery, horticulture, and woodshop, are able to create items that people want with the individual-attention of our participants as a stamp on each piece.

Providence Center Executive Director Chuck Coble said, "Our mission is to provide greater independence to those we serve. What our participants shape, make, and grow helps them build skills and learn new things. It's not just a purchase to us. We work every day to assist our participants to become full, active citizens and that involves becoming tax payers, not just users, wherever possible."

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Chuck's Notes

From the desk of Chuck Coble,
Executive Director

The helpful employee helping to put your groceries in bags at your local supermarket. The artist who has developed skills to mold a beautiful platter for purchase at your favorite store. A smiling volunteer providing

food to seniors and shut-ins. Providence Center's participants are becoming more and more involved in their communities and this is thanks, in part, to our growing network of community partners.

Community partnerships are a critical part of what we do. Our mission is focused on empowering those we serve to live the most independent life possible and to chart their own paths with those closest to them. To do this, as the saying goes, it takes a village.

Because of our unique mission, time and again the Anne Arundel community has reached out to support those we serve and contributed to building a future for the nearly 500 adults with developmental disabilities that Providence Center serves. The effects of our relationships have benefited the community as a whole. And the resulting goodwill enriches all of our lives as it ripples outward.

That is why we strive to assist individuals in joining in their communities to whatever extent possible. And our participants want to give back to make a better world, by volunteering with Meals on Wheels, creating environmentally-friendly products, and adding themselves to the fabric of our collective lives.

Community partners are key to this. Whether they are retail partners that offer their customers the hand-made, hand-grown, and hand-crafted products that Providence Center artists produce;

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Angel's Food Market Becomes New Retail Partner

It was once a country market stand offering produce on the side of the road. Today Angel's food market may look different but it retains the connection to its surrounding communities that it was founded on in the early 1920's.

For more than fifty years, Angel's has been owned by the Clocker family. First by grandfather Andrew Goodwin, who sold it to his daughter Joyce and her husband Tom Clocker around 1970. Then Joyce and Tom sold it to their sons, Walt, Andy, and Tom. This staple of Pasadena offers a wide variety of groceries, prepared foods, wine, and products to its customers, many of whom have shopped there for more than 30 years.

The family-owned business has a long and rich history in our community. Today, Angel's also now offers their customers the opportunity to purchase Providence Center products. This new partnership broadens the Center's products' reach and solidifies Angel's commitment to serving its customers the best way they can.

Walt Clocker, who was a practicing attorney and is now general manager of the store, said his customers recognize the quality of the pottery made by Providence Center participants. "The products are beautiful and functional," Clocker said recently. "Our customers can sense the care put into them. They can tell they are hand crafted products that are well received. People just fall in love with them," his eyes lighting up as he relays his customers' reactions.

Angel's, like Providence Center, is very rooted in the community. They are constantly looking for ways to support and improve our area. That made the new partnership between Providence Center and Angel's a no brainer.

Clocker and his brothers are firm believers in shopping locally. Walt is currently Chairman of the Maryland Retailers Association, a trade association that consists of more than 600 leading retailers in Maryland, which allows him to advocate for community retailers throughout the state. Offering his customers Providence Center's products is in line with Angel's philosophy about supporting retailers and creating partnerships.

Tom Wright, Providence Center's Director of Production, sees partnerships like that with Angel's as invaluable to empowering those the Center serves. "New partnerships like ours with Angel's Food Market allow us to get broader exposure for the high-quality products we offer. Every purchase of a Providence Center product directly benefits the individual that made it, as well as our programs and services. We are very pleased to be offering our items to Angel's loyal customers."

Clocker believes this is the beginning of a strong partnership. "I have literally heard squeals from customers because the pottery is so beautiful. People want to touch it. And when they find out where it is from, they know that they want to take it home. We hope to add more gift related items in the store so Providence Center products fit perfectly in that."

Whole Foods, *continued from page 1*



"First and foremost, these are high quality items," said Tom Wright, Providence Center's Director of Production. "They can easily stand beside that of other artists' works in their craftsmanship. But the added piece to our products is that they directly benefit the artists,

providing them a paycheck for their work."

The ability to earn a paycheck is important to providing financial independence, as financial independence is a cornerstone of personal independence. Every partnership that is built through Providence Center is part of fulfilling its mission.

Recently, Chaisson was promoted to run the company's Georgetown location. She has brought Providence Center with her to her new position, making the products available to those in the Washington, DC area.

"There is a ripple effect," Wright continued. "What Sue and Whole Foods are doing help us build our presence and make new connections. It is a pleasure to work with them and introduce what we do to more and more people in our communities."

Chuck's Notes, *continued from page 1*

employers that hire our participants so that they can further build skills, earn a wage, and get on a career path; volunteer and social organizations that welcome all people to help with a cause; or financial donors that help keep our professional staff in place - all of those that help us support our participants to shape their futures are truly impacting lives.

This village approach relies on a personal agreement between parties - to offer a product or service or even a contribution of time in exchange for a richer personal growth opportunity and an impact.

Partners like Whole Foods and Susan Chaisson, Angel's Food Market, Meals on Wheels, our valued donors, supporters and volunteers, and those that employ our participants or purchase their products are making a difference in the lives of the extraordinary adults with developmental disabilities that we serve. We are grateful for their partnership and the support we receive each day that keeps us moving forward.

Making a Difference by Serving those in Need



Joey Pappas, Marjorie Porter, Frank Novak, Spencer Grimes, and Quashawna Jefferson meet up after delivering meals for the day.

It started with a phone call in September of last year to Frank Novak, site coordinator for South Baltimore Meals on Wheels. Providence Center participants wanted to help deliver meals to the elderly and ill. They wanted to give back and provide an important service by volunteering their time.

Today eight Providence Center participants deliver between 25 – 30 meals a week in Curtis Bay and Brooklyn, picking them up from Novak's location at Christ Lutheran Church on Charles Street in

South Baltimore. They bring both hot and cold meals, as well as meals for those with special dietary needs, in Providence Center vans. And they do it with big smiles.

Travis Lynch, a Team Mentor at Providence Center's Woodshop in Millersville, works with the participants as they volunteer their time to deliver meals for Meals on Wheels. He knew that many at the Woodshop wanted to volunteer in some capacity. But Lynch also saw it as an opportunity to further Providence Center's mission by getting participants more involved in the community.

"It's a great opportunity to have our participants interact with people. It's a good starting point for many of them. At first, some participants were nervous but now they're much more comfortable being out in the community," Lynch said. "Participants get a sense of pride in doing something for others. And many have been cared for for so long that they appreciate being able to do something for someone else."

Several participants echoed Lynch's view. "I help people a lot by doing Meals on Wheels," Quashawna Jefferson stated. "When people smile, I know I'm helping. My favorite part is putting the food in the vans, getting them ready to go."

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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, Communications Manager, at aharrison@providencecenter.com.

Going Green: Products and Practices that Improve Communities



The many products Providence Center participants make each day are beautiful, hand-crafted, individually-cultivated works of art. From our Blue Crab pottery line, to our colorful children's Adirondack chairs, to our plants, herbs, and vegetables – each item Providence Center offers enhances every indoor and outdoor space. How can you top great pieces? By making them in the most environmentally-friendly way.

Providence Center products are now being made and grown with a particular eye towards improving our environment. One of our newest products offered are bat houses, produced by Providence Center individuals, part of our "green" product line.

The bat houses are important for the sensitive Chesapeake Bay eco-system and property owners by controlling the insect population and limiting damage caused by bats that nest in homes, garages, and other structures. They also are important for effective storm water management. The houses are made of cedar plywood and are available for sale for \$30 at Providence Center's Woodshop.

Many think that bats are a nuisance, and with the revived popularity of vampire movies and television programs, undead blood drinkers. But that is not the reality of bats. They are, in fact, incredibly important mammals to our environment and the Chesapeake Bay.

Bats are bug eaters. Where bats are present, they help keep insect populations low and, as a result, the potential for the spread of disease down. They perform an important storm water management function by feeding on insects that fester in standing

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Making a Difference by Serving those in Need, *continued from page 3*

Patrice Curry enjoys the interactions she gets by volunteering with Meals on Wheels. "I like going out in the community. I meet nice people that appreciate it," Curry said.

Novak, who has worked with Meals on Wheels for more than 17 years, appreciates any help he can get to ensure that those in need have food. And while he hasn't worked with individuals with developmental disabilities before, he quickly recognized that they have integrated with the entire volunteer team well.

Novak said, "I'm very happy with the Providence Center volunteers. They welcomed me and I welcomed them. I needed

volunteers and they filled a void. They are a big help and there is a big camaraderie between Providence Center volunteers and our other volunteers."

He noted that the Providence Center route is the biggest he has right now. And he has seen the transformation in the participants. "Patrice was very quiet and shy. Now she's outgoing with a take-charge attitude. I feel lucky to have them."

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 Visa or MasterCard. 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 Providence 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 Providence 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 Institute, 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.

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 Institute, 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.**

Working on Social Security Benefits

Guest Column

Amy Wallish, Full Circle Employment Solutions LLC

The U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) has many safety nets in place to encourage individuals who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits to test their ability to go back to work. These are called work incentives. Work incentives are special rules that make it possible for people with disabilities to work and still receive monthly payments and Medicare or Medicaid. There are work incentives specific to SSI, SSDI and some that can be used with both benefits. Understanding how they work and when to use them can help beneficiaries keep more of their benefits while working towards financial self-sufficiency.

When someone who receives SSDI goes to work, there are several work incentives that SSA has in place. A SSDI beneficiary gets a 9-month Trial Work Period (TWP) which allows the person to test their ability to work without fear of losing the SSDI cash payment. After the Trial Work Period, there is a 36-month consecutive Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE) where the beneficiary will receive their SSDI check for any months that countable earnings are below the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) amount which is \$1010/month in 2012. In addition, the first time someone earns at the SGA level, SSA gives a 3 month grace period where the person can earn any amount and still keep the SSDI cash payment. There are also several other work incentives that reduce the actual amount of earnings that SSA looks at when determining if the person is earning at the SGA level. If someone has a job coach, receives additional support at work, or pays for out of pocket expenses related to the disability, then there might be work incentives that can be developed. Medicare is also protected for several years once a person begins working.

When someone who receives SSI goes back to work, SSA gives a few standard deductions and then reduces the SSI cash payment based on the person's countable income. A person has to earn more than \$1480/month in countable income before the SSI cash payment will be reduced to \$0. If earnings are above this and a person loses the SSI cash payment due to wages, there is a work incentive that allows for Medicaid to continue indefinitely as long as the person is earning less than the state Medicaid threshold amount (in Maryland this is \$39,926 in 2012) and still meets the other SSI requirements. There are special work incentives for beneficiaries whose primary disability is blindness, beneficiaries who are under 22 and students, and for those who receive additional supports on the job.

One important responsibility beneficiaries have while working is to report wages. Gathering copies of paystubs, submitting them to the local Social Security office and getting a receipt needs to be done every month regardless of how much earnings a person has. Wages should be reported either by certified mail, in person or by fax by the 6th of each month for the previous month. This will help reduce the possibility of overpayments from Social Security.

So you may ask, how do I know what work incentives I can use? I want to work but the thought of dealing with SSA once I am working is overwhelming. Where can I get help? There are trained professionals, called Benefits Counselors, who can assist beneficiaries and their families with navigating SSA and the return to work process. Companies such as Full Circle Employment Solutions specialize in benefits counseling and can provide individualized information to beneficiaries and their families about how work will impact all the benefits that the person receives. For more information or questions regarding working while receiving benefits please visit www.fullcircledc.com or contact Amy Wallish at 240-478-8436 or amy.wallish@fullcircledc.com.

Going Green, *continued from page 3*

water. Water then has more time to absorb into the groundwater without the growth of insect populations.

In March, Providence Center introduced the bat houses before the Anne Arundel County Council at the Arundel Center in Annapolis. Anne Arundel County Councilman Dick Ladd (District 5), who invited Providence Center to Council's session, stated, "Bats are necessary for a healthy environment and are very helpful enablers of protecting our water ways. Providence Center is producing a great design that will allow storm water run-off -- collected in ponds or holding pools -- time to absorb into the ground without becoming a breeding ground for mosquitoes -- a concern voiced on several occasions by constituents. This locally-made product by Providence Center participants is a win-win for Anne Arundel County -- a well-made product that is less expensive than most bat houses, an effective tool against a potential side effect of storm water management, and made by adults with developmental disabilities that earn more independence through their production and sale."

Executive Director Chuck Coble said, "Providence Center is always looking to add to our selection of green products and after discussions with Councilman Ladd, and at his suggestion, we knew that the bat houses can be a successful product that improves our environment."

Coble noted other products and techniques Providence Center is using to be more sustainable and eco-friendly. "Our horticulture program also grows bay grasses that are critical to protecting the Bay. The grasses have been grown for important Bay restoration projects like that at Poplar Island with the US Army Corps of Engineers and in Lusby with Dominion Energy. Our greenhouses are also producing pesticide-free plants, herbs, shrubs, and vegetables. And in addition to that, our Pottery program uses green processes such as electric kilns and recycling all excess or unused clay."

So next time you see a bat flying overhead at night, remember the important work we rely on them to do.

To learn more about the bat houses and how to purchase them, email info@providencecenter.com.



Commemorative Gifts

This listing reflects commemorative gifts from
February 2, 2012 – May 15, 2012

In Honor of Thomas Horvat

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Horvat

In Honor of Lisa Pizarro

Mrs. Linda Crawford

In Honor of Tom Totushek

Mr. and Mrs. Tyrone Stinson

In Honor of Aimee Bullen

Joseph Mullan Co.

In Honor of Cheryl Williamson

Ms. Peggy Williamson

In Honor of Sean Doordan

St. John Properties

In Honor of Ed and Cathy Donovan

Ms. Jeanne Donovan

In Memory of Terry Takamori

Ms. Audrey Blasco

In Memory of Bonny Bassford

Mr. Brian Bartels

In Memory of Bonny Bassford

Ms. Loretta Taylor

In Memory of Bonny Bassford

Ms. Joyce Abramson

In Memory of Bonny Bassford

Ms. Joan Clark

In Memory of Bonny Bassford

Ms. Vera Roth

In Memory of Bonny Bassford

Ms. Patricia Teszner

In Memory of Bonny Bassford

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bartels

Why Plan your Estate Today?

Pondering or planning for death is a very difficult prospect but what separates human beings from any other living thing is that we are aware that one day, we will die.

Planning your estate is an important part of that process. It ensures that your loved ones and beneficiaries receive what you intended them to receive after you have passed on.

No matter how big or small your estate may be, planning your estate is one of the wisest decisions you can make. Whether through a will or charitable trusts, these directives are meant to guide your beneficiaries and legal authorities to expressly execute

your intentions. It also makes things easier on everyone by avoiding unnecessary taxes and costs following death.

Including charitable causes like Providence Center in your estate plan has two benefits:
an altruistic legacy and definitive tax advantages.

Providence Center has been serving those with developmental disabilities in the Anne Arundel County area for more than 50 years. A gift to Providence Center in your estate promises that those that rely on our dynamic services and programs today and tomorrow will have the support they need long after we are gone.

To learn more about planning your estate with Providence Center, please contact Aimee Bullen, Development Manager, at (410)766-2212 ext. 110.

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 hope that you will consider supporting those partners that support our important work.

Employers

**Pride Industries
at Annapolis Naval Station**
321 Kinkaid Rd. #329
Annapolis, MD 21402

Aguia Cleaning Services

**Billy Casper Golf -
Eisenhower GC**
1576 Crownsville Road
Crownsville, MD 21032

Giant
7940 Crain Hwy S.
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Volunteer Positions

Quiet Waters Park
600 Quiet Waters Park Road
Annapolis, MD 21403

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.

Thank you to those organizations that have worked with Baldwin Industries over the last three months!

Jefferson Communications
5826 Wye Oak Commons Court
Burke, VA 22015
www.jeffersoncomm.com

Post Haste Mailing
90 Russell Street # 100
Annapolis, MD 21401
www.posthastemailing.biz

Announcements

❖ Congratulations to **Katherine Callahan, Nikki Weaver, Olivia Henderson, Ashley Ocasio, Emily Swoveland, Tom McQuillan, and Jennifer Howerton** for their recent promotions. Katherine was promoted to Program Coordinator at Cloverleaf and Jean Bradbury Building (JBB). Nikki was promoted to Senior Mentor at the Horticulture program at Jean Bradbury Building. Olivia was promoted to Lead Mentor at JBB. Ashley was promoted to Senior Team Mentor at JBB. Emily was promoted to Senior Mentor in the Supported Employment program. Tom was promoted to Director of Program Services for Cloverleaf and JBB. Jennifer was promoted to Director of Human Resources.

❖ **Beverly Finch has been awarded Providence Center's Change Agent award.** The Change Agent award is designed

Horticulture Greenhouses and Gardens

Visit our Greenhouses and Gardens at the Jean Bradbury Building for all your fresh summer vegetable and flower needs. Our growers have produced tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, watermelon, eggplants and much more ready for you to serve your family and friends. And they were all grown pesticide-free. Pick up some perennials, too, as your gardens are beginning to take shape for the season.

Jean Bradbury Building
370 Shore Acres Road
Arnold, Maryland 21012

to recognize staff members that are advancing our mission and creating a positive environment at Providence Center. Beverly is the first recipient of the award. Congratulations and thank you, Beverly!

❖ Thank you to the **Jesse and Hertha Adams Charitable Trust** for their gift of \$19,637 to support Providence Center's programs and services.

❖ Thank you to **Toyota Dealer Match Program** (on behalf of **Koons Toyota of Annapolis**) for their gift of \$2,500 to support Providence Center's transportation services.

❖ Thanks to the **Knights of Columbus Council #11214** for their gift of \$1,525 to support Providence Center's programs and services.

❖ Thanks to the **Knights of Columbus Council #1384** for their gift of \$615 to support Providence Center's programs and services.

❖ Thank you to **Moran Insurance** for its presenting sponsorship of **Providence Center's 20th Annual Moran Golf Classic**. This is the 16th year that Moran has been presenting sponsor of the event.

❖ Thank you to **i2 - Innovation Intelligence and Kaeti Bradley** for hosting a Happy Hour Art Show on June 7, 2012 to promote our Art Institute and products at i2 - Innovation Intelligence's offices in Annapolis.

A full listing of donors will be featured in Providence Center's 2012 Annual Report.



Providence Center
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Glen Burnie, MD 21060

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 ProvidenceCntr

Save the Date!!

Providence Center Kiwaniis Aktion Club

Wednesday, June 6, 2012
Wednesday, August 1, 2012
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Cloverleaf Building
Millersville, MD

For more information, contact Rosemary Elger at relger@providencecenter.com or at (443)679-1166 ext. 205

9th Annual Jalopyrama*

Hot rod show benefitting Providence Center
Saturday, October 27, 2012
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Annapolis National Guard Armory
For more information, visit www.jalopyrama.com.

*Date has been updated

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.