

Notes of Hope

BARBARA OLSON

Center of Hope



A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE IN THE FIELD OF DISABILITIES SINCE 1948.

WWW.B-OLSONCENTEROFHOPE.ORG

New Program for Teens & Adults

Project Leisure offers opportunities for personal enrichment for teens and adults with developmental disabilities who wish to continue developing their social and leisure skills in a structured environment. Qualified COH staff provide this special program designed for skill-building, socializing with peers, and engaging in a wealth of activities such as drama, art, outdoor challenges, fitness, and dance, allowing all individuals with disabilities a door to a new world of enjoyable opportunities. Project Leisure is run in small groups and facilitated by qualified Center of Hope staff that assist and participate as an integral part of the positive leisure experience. Each staff member is certified in first aid and CPR. The Project Leisure hours are from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information and rates, contact Kelley Peterson at 815-964-9275 ext #250.



Bethany A. & Samantha P. enjoy their activities throughout the day at the Center of Hope.

YOU made it the Most Successful Art Show Ever!

The April 10th Inspired to Paint Art Show and Silent Auction to benefit the Center of Hope has come in as the most successful art show ever, thanks to YOU, our friends and supporters! Here's how **You** did it:

Our **Artists**, wonderful and generous, presented various projects inspired by art & culture from European countries. An additional experience this year was having our staff teach the participants about the different countries represented in the show. Classroom lessons in history, culture and art were held throughout the year. In addition to inspiring our participants, the artists all donated artwork for the silent auction. Thank you!



Artist Jeanne Coe works with Joey L. in preparing for the 2011 Art Show.

Our **Sponsors** surpassed our hopes with their support! This year's sponsorships set a new record! This year's sponsors were: The companies of Goellner Incorporated; Advanced Machine & Engineering Co., & Hennig; Rockford Health System-Dept. of Anesthesiology; Greenlee-A Textron Company; Bergstrom Charitable Foundation; AlphaGraphics; Harris Bank; Holder Heating & Air Conditioning; Humana, Inc; The Pension Specialists; Rockford Health System; Swedish American Health System; Drs. Therese & Scott Trenhaile; Affiliated Surgeons Group; Alpine Bank; Brian Bear, M.D., Rockford Orthopedic Assoc.; Eckburg & Bates Agency; Rev. René & Debbie Escalanté; McGladrey; Rockford Area Arts Council; Peter A. Savitski; Richard and Nancy Flanagan; Holmstrom & Kennedy; Don & Debbie Vidican; Frank & Jen Wehrstein. Thank you!

So many of You bought tickets and came to our wonderful afternoon.

You came and bought the artwork made by the participants and bid on the gift baskets. Thank you!

• **Donors** of the numerous **gift baskets** presented imaginative collections. Thank you!

• **Others** sent in generous donations in lieu of tickets. Thank you!

• **Everyone** at the event enjoyed the delicious foods served by **Franchesco's** and the musical entertainment by the **Jodi Beach Trio**. Thank you!

• **The Board of Directors, Volunteers, Committee Members and Staff** gave numerous hours of time and talent. Thank you!



JB Ferguson successfully outbid many others!

We greatly appreciate everything that was done by everyone involved. We also wish to note: *This program is partially supported by a grant from the Rockford Area Arts Council, which receives support from the City of Rockford, the Illinois Arts Council and its members. Thank you!* ♥

BARBARA OLSON CENTER OF HOPE • SUMMER 2011

OUR MISSION: Help individuals with developmental disabilities reach personal goals through individualized skill development, vocational opportunities and community service.

Summer Bash and Parents' Auxiliary

• This year's **Summer Bash**, put on by the Parents' Auxiliary of the Center of Hope for all our participants and their family members, is scheduled for **Friday, July 29th, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.** It will be held at the Center of Hope in our back yard. Once again, music will be provided by a DJ, our Board member Joe Licari, who is a member of the musical group Clutch Cargo! We'll have a great time like always, so we hope to see you there!



Jeremiah K. and Ericka Moore enjoy the fun of an evening at the COH Summer Bash

• Are you one of those parents or relatives who would like to help the Center of Hope because your child or relative is here, but you don't know how? Come to one of the monthly meetings held at the Center and get involved! (Check the calendar in this newsletter for upcoming dates and times.)



Parents Nancy D'Angelo & Wendy Atkins work on last year's Mega Raffle, which brought in \$2844 for the Center of Hope

• The COH Parents' Auxiliary was very busy last year. Throughout the year, the parents and siblings help in various ways to raise money, but they also provide the "people power" to have successful events, such as the Summer Bash, an outdoor party/barbecue/dance, and the Christmas Dinner/Dance at Harlem High School. Parents always help with outside fundraisers, too, such as 9-Pin Bowling and Wine-Tasting events. This past winter, they also helped the Center of Hope run a Bake Sale during the kickoff of the United Way of Rock River Valley campaign. Get involved and see your kindness multiply! Please come to a meeting or contact Nancy D'Angelo at 815-654-2871 or email her at ndangelo@columbiapipe.com.



DIRECTOR'S

CORNER

As another state budget crisis continues to loom over us, I am saddened by the continued lack of support for community services in Illinois. With critical programs such as respite and dental services in danger of being eliminated, I can only feel that Illinois keeps taking giant steps backwards in providing the necessary services within the community needed by individuals with disabilities.

According to the latest PUNS data (Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services) given by the state for Winnebago and Boone Counties, hundreds of families are on the waiting list for some kind of services.

- 145 children in Special Education have graduated from high school but have no funding to attend training or educational programs like the Center's. They are losing valuable skills as each day goes by.
- 93 caregivers (of individuals with disabilities living in their family or guardian home) are in critical need of support to keep their individuals in their current living situation this next year.
- 291 individuals with developmental disabilities desperately need personal supports such as habilitation, personal care or intermittent respite services.

And we know there are many others in our community who need services but have not registered for PUNS at this time. The lists of those waiting, and their needs, continue to grow, and families in our community find themselves in emergency situations with no help.

This can lead to families being split up and individuals with disabilities being sent to large impersonal state institutions that cost 3 times as much of our tax dollars to serve them in sites away from family and friends than in our community.

The Center has programs to help those families on a private pay basis. But many families cannot afford to pay for these services. **Please continue to reach out to your legislators and urge them to find the money needed to keep individuals in their community and close to families and friends.**

A true state crisis is upon us, and if we don't do something about it now, all the strides and abilities our participants make will be for naught as services slowly dwindle away. Other states provide great community supports to their individuals. Somehow, in Illinois, the message has been pretty clear: people with disabilities don't deserve our support. I don't understand why. Their disabilities, whether intellectual or physical, autism or a mental illness, did not happen by any fault of their own. They didn't make poor decisions, didn't follow the wrong path or hang with the wrong friends. The Center will continue to work hard to help those in our community **stay** in our community.

We at the Center have so appreciated all your support, which allows us to provide individuals who were simply born with a disability the services they need to be the best that they can be, services that allow them to work, learn and give back to their community. Thank you, from all of us at the Center, for all of your wonderful support. It is appreciated more than you will ever know!

Carm Herman

Santa visits with Nate A. and Aaron A. while Carrie M. and Joe L. also had fun at the annual Christmas Dinner/Dance held at Harlem H.S. last December by the COH Parents' Auxiliary.

We're wishing for (new or gently used)...

As equipment wears out or breaks down, we've often wished for and received a replacement from our supporters. So once again, we cross our fingers and hope someone knows someone who can donate any of the following items. We are extremely grateful for any assistance you can give us.

- Vinyl padded armchairs.
- A comfortable recliner, rocking chair or love seat.
- We have to replace all our large windows in our participant lounge. If anyone has good contacts with a window replacement company, please let us know.
- For our teaching kitchen: pots, pans, coffee maker, teapot, dish towels, potholders, plastic cutting boards, 12 place setting dish set, various utensils (serving spoons & forks, ladles, measuring cups, eating utensils, baking tins, etc.) These do not need to be brand new, as long as they are safe, not cracked, nor burnt.
- We also have a domestic skills room that needs end tables and a coffee table.
- Any size clean useable adult clothing: pants, sweatpants, shirts, blouses, sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets (all seasons).
- Full size refrigerator.
- Laptops for staff training.
- Stationary bicycle, recumbent bike.
- A 15-passenger replacement van.
- A used car that runs safely.
- A tree cutting service which would give us a break on fees.

Please call the Center at (815) 964-9275 if you have any items available. We greatly appreciate any useful appliances. Thank you!

Do You FACEBOOK?

Barbara Olson Center of Hope is on FACEBOOK! This is a great way to find out and participate in the Center's smaller events, like a bake sale, health fair or job opening. Our fun fundraisers are also listed there. Please join as a fan and let your friends know about us, too. And please post your thoughts.
We would appreciate hearing from you.

More about Hope Industries!

Our in-house business, Hope Industries, employs our participants in different jobs as they perform work for local and national companies. Having our own secure work space and supervision available allows many of our participants the opportunity to work and earn a paycheck.

Hope Industries continues to work on several jobs for Endries International, Inc. These jobs offer a variety of different tasks, and some take several steps to complete. One of the ongoing jobs for Endries is an escalator roller job. This job is the packaging of two wheels in a box. The interesting part of this job is a small package of parts that is added to the box. Hope Industries also packages the parts into the small bags. Because this job involves several steps as well as different skills, many participants throughout the building are able to complete these jobs for a paycheck.

Services available through Hope Industries include packaging, heat sealing, shrink wrapping, and count jobs. We also can do envelope stuffing, labeling, repositioning of labels, repackaging, folding, and almost any task your company may need. Working together with Hope Industries provides high quality, guaranteed results for your business while providing our participants the opportunity to earn a paycheck. If you or your employer is looking for a company to outsource to on a one-time or repeating job, please call Mike Marvell, Director of Business Development, at the Center of Hope at (815) 964-9275 ext 244 to see how we can help each other while also helping our most vulnerable citizens. ♡



Stephen B. enjoys working all the jobs, including the Endries escalator rollers job.



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Need HELP with your Teens?

HELP stands for **Hope's Extended Life-skills Program**. This is a day program begun two years ago at the Center of Hope for teens of 14 -18 years of age, for the days they do not have school in session, including summer vacation days. This program offers parents and guardians of teens with autism and related disabilities a place to bring their teens (from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) when school is out. HELP is an opportunity to continue learning domestic and vocational training, communication, and socialization training in a fun and safe environment.

There are approximately 71 days in the year when school is not in session (RPSD schedule) and we are open. Teens can be registered for as many or as few days as needed, but advance registration is requested as there are a limited number of spaces. The fee for attendance is on a sliding scale, based on a family's total gross income. For more information and an application form, call Vickey Alexander at the Center, ext. 233.

The Wm. Howard Trust has been our main benefactor in making this program possible. Clarcor, CWB Foundation, and Greenlee Textron have also each granted funding towards making this program possible. We thank them for their generosity. ♡

Barbara Olson Center of Hope

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Rockford, IL 61101
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If you would rather receive our newsletter via email, please
send your email address to mgwardys@b-olsoncenterofhope.org

Our Sincere Thanks to All of You

Our apologies if we have inadvertently failed to list your name. This in no way reflects our appreciation.

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Calendar of Events 2011

June 30 Staff Conference Day
Cancelled: **Participants Attend**
July 4 4th of July Holiday, Center is Closed
July 9 Parent Breakfast Meeting @ Stockholm Inn 8:30 a.m.
July 20 Quarterly Parent Meeting @ COH 7:00 p.m.
July 29 Board Meeting @ Noon
July 29 Summer Bash @ COH 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
August 13 Parent Breakfast Meeting @ Stockholm Inn 8:30 a.m.
August 18 Parent Monthly Meeting @ COH 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 5 Labor Day Holiday, Center is Closed

Sept. 7 RRV Blood Drive @ COH 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sept. 10 Parent Breakfast Meeting @ Stockholm Inn 8:30 a.m.
Sept. 16 Staff Conference Day, NO Participants
Sept. 20 Parent Monthly Meeting @ COH 6:30 p.m.
October 8 Parent Breakfast Meeting @ Stockholm Inn 8:30 a.m.
October 10 Columbus Day Holiday, Center is Closed
October 19 Quarterly Parent Meeting @ COH 7:00 p.m.

Board of Directors Changed

The May meeting of the Barbara Olson Center of Hope Board of Directors included the board voting on a new slate of officers for the 2011-2012 year.

President—Kevin Rudy
Vice President—Dr. Brad Johnson
Secretary—Joan Olson-Greenberg
Treasurer—Sherri Noel

These officers and the following members currently make up our governing board: Dr. Kendall Boone, Nancy D'Angelo, Scott Dimke, Mike Hayes, Ryan Kralka, Luella LaBrant, Joe Licari, Melissa Miller, Mike Tolliver and Ex Oficio—Pete Savitski