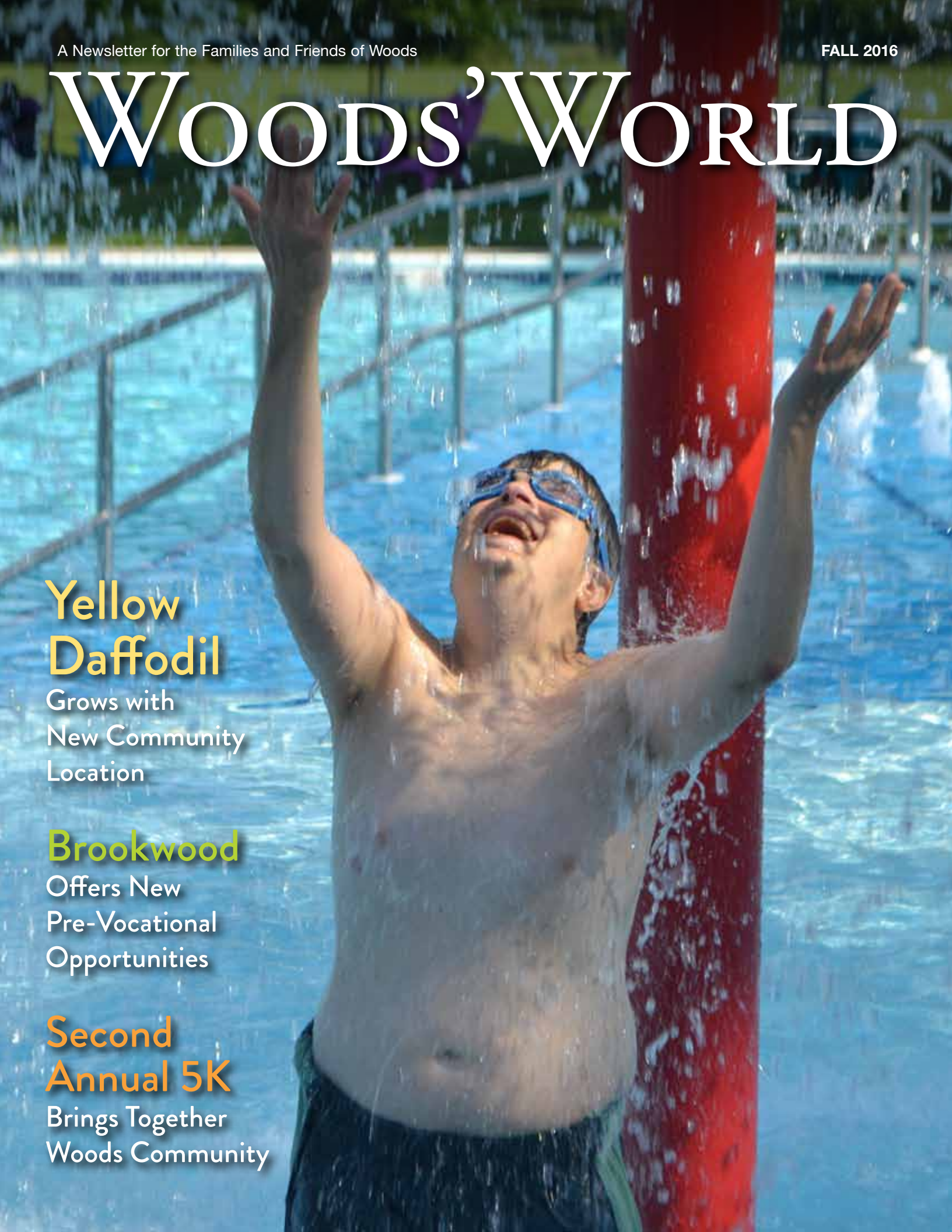
A Newsletter for the Families and Friends of Woods

FALL 2016

Woods' World



Yellow Daffodil

Grows with New Community Location

Brookwood

Offers New Pre-Vocational Opportunities

Second Annual 5K

Brings Together Woods Community

WOODS' WORLD

FALL 2016

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Brown Hall Pool Gets a Facelift

Nothing says summer like shrieks from excited swimmers playing in a crystal clear pool on a warm summer day. That was the scene here at Woods all summer long as hundreds of residents enjoyed swimming in the newly renovated Brown Hall Pool. The renovations were made possible by the $192,453 that was raised during a special appeal at the annual HOLLYWoods Gala in January.

In addition to repairing damage from wear and tear that included a serious leak, the renovations included the installation of a zero entry ramp for easy access for all swimmers, especially those using wheelchairs. A mushroom fountain and sprinklers along the ramp were added for extra enjoyment. The Brown Hall Pool is the larger of the Woods' two outdoor pools and the one most utilized. The pool was closed in August 2015 when the staff could not keep the water level high enough. Concerns mounted that the pool was too old to be easily repaired and the cost would be too high for Woods' budget. Luckily, Beth O'Toole, Assistant Director of Recreation/ Aquatics got her wishes answered!

Once the renovation of the pool was selected for the Gala Special Appeal, Beth's team met with consumers to discuss what features they would like the pool to have. The deep-end and diving board were eliminated because no one used the board and very few individuals were able to swim in the deeper water that took up half the length of the pool. Except for the entry ramp and the 18 inches of water under the mushroom feature, the remainder of the pool is 4.5 feet deep all the way around.

Consumers also wanted a place to sit around the pool and an area where they could spread a towel and sit in the sun. The fence around the pool was moved to provide a larger grass area where five picnic tables with umbrellas are scattered and lush grass provides a nice cushion for towels and sunbathers. Colorful Adirondack chairs line the perimeter of the pool for those who wish to be closer to the action.

During the grand opening event in June, one of the guests commented that the Brown Hall Pool was like a community swim club, which is exactly the ambience Beth and her team attempted to create. There is no doubt that the Brown Hall Pool was enjoyed all summer and will be for many summers to come!

Special thanks to Elizabeth Wells, Joseph and Mary Faulkner Family Foundation, and the Bates Family Foundation, Inc. for their generous lead gifts that made this possible.

Woods Names New CEO

Following a comprehensive national search, the Woods Board of Trustees has appointed Tine Hansen-Turton, MGA, JD, as the organization's next President and CEO. Hansen-Turton formerly served as the Chief Operating Officer at Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC), a nationally leading public health institute.

In her role at PHMC, Hansen-Turton oversaw and led corporate strategy, operations, business development and M&A. She currently serves as the founding Executive Administrator for the Convenient Care Association (CCA), the national trade association of over 2100 private-sector retail clinic industry, serving 20 million people with basic health care services across the country.

"Tine comes to Woods with an extraordinary background and set of experiences which will enhance our ability to serve the needs of Woods' diverse client population. She is uniquely qualified to provide transformative leadership for our complex and growing organization, and we are very excited that Tine is leading Woods," said Past Woods Board Chair, Cecilia O. Vega. "I especially want to thank Peter Shubiak, Chief Operating Officer of Woods who served as the Interim and Acting CEO, for providing continuity and guidance throughout the transition period."

"I decided to accept this new challenge and opportunity as I am personally very passionate about our mission. Ever since Nikolaj (my now 15 year old son) was diagnosed years ago with severe learning disabilities, I have seen first-hand as a parent how hard it is it to get accessible, affordable, quality education and support services for those in our society with disabilities, who need it the most. This needs to change in all communities throughout the country, and we exemplify what it means to do it right! There should be caring Woods communities everywhere!

I am excited to bring my 20+ years of policy and advocacy, leadership and entrepreneurship skills to continue to build on the legacy Mollie Woods started over 100 hundred years ago and that her successors and Board have followed ever since. I am honored to join its incredible staff and leadership who are THE national leaders in providing evidence-informed quality programs and services to people with exceptional challenges, disabilities and complex needs.

We have an obligation to the individuals we serve and their families to make sure that their voices are heard at the city, state and federal levels so children and adults everywhere with special needs have access to quality services at the right time, the right location and at the right cost when they need them," said Tine Hansen-Turton upon her acceptance of the position.

Since 2014, Woods Services has operated as one of five affiliated organizations under the Woods Resources parent corporation. This move was made to better accommodate Woods Services growth strategy that included acquisitions to broaden our continuum of care and extend our geographic reach. This month, the Woods Board of Trustees, upon the enthusiastic and unanimous recommendation from Woods Services' senior management, determined that it wanted a more simplified and understandable structure and voted, effective immediately, to return Woods Services to its long-standing prior role as the parent company of the Woods family.

As a result of the Board's decision, some senior management titles have been changed. The following officers of Woods Resources are now officers of Woods Services: Tine Hansen-Turton, President/CEO of Services, Peter Shubiak, Executive Vice President/COO of Services, Tom Grant, Executive Vice President/CFO of Services and Simon Kimmelman, Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Services. Dr. Scott Spreat will serve as Senior Vice President of Services and continue with his current responsibilities in the role of President and Chief Research Officer of Woods Programs. Michael Haggerty will continue to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Langhorne campus as Vice President of Program Operations.

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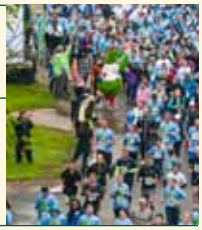

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Yellow Daffodil Grows with Grant Funding

Yellow Daffodil has blossomed in the last year thanks to a grant in the amount of $22,500 from the AVS Foundation and grants totaling $20,000 from the TD Charitable Foundation. These generous grants have enabled Woods to open a third location in the Pine Watson Shopping Center in Langhorne, while increasing inventory and employment opportunities in the on-campus location and kiosk at the Oxford Valley Mall. The grant funds have also been used to provide additional job training and skills to prepare individuals for supported and competitive employment. Thank you to both the AVS Foundation and the TD Charitable Foundation for supporting Yellow Daffodil as an innovative affirmative enterprise and securing the future of vocational services at Woods!

Yellow Daffodil is Growing!

New Community Location Opens in Langhorne

September 30 was a big day for Yellow Daffodil as the flower and gift shop celebrated its 50th anniversary and officially opened its brand new location at the Pine Watson Shopping Center in Langhorne Borough.

Yellow Daffodil Flower and Gift Shop employs people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), emotional and behavioral concerns, cerebral palsy, and other physical, developmental, and intellectual disabilities. Individuals in the Woods' vocational program work alongside shop managers and assistants to create floral arrangements, handmade greeting cards, and crafts. They also interact with customers, follow inventory processes, and use the point-of-sale system to ring up purchases, all skills that can later be applied to jobs in the future.

Yellow Daffodil at Pine Watson is a bright, inviting, and eye-catching shop that offers a variety of fresh flower arrangements, plants, hand-poured soy candles in a variety of seasonal scents, BeechTree bath and body products and unique gifts for any occasion. The shop also boasts a colorful kids' area to occupy children while their parents shop, as well as a meeting area for brides to discuss their wedding flower visions with the Yellow Daffodil floral designers. Yellow Daffodil at Pine Watson is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (closed on Sunday and Monday).

Yellow Daffodil has operated as a vocational program at Woods Services since the early 1960s, when it was first established as a greenhouse rotation before later becoming a flower shop in September 1966. Yellow Daffodil was housed in the Holland building at Woods from 1974 until 2012, when it moved to a stand-alone location at 11 Woods Drive near the 213 entrance to the campus. Yellow Daffodil at Woods is a full-service shop and design studio open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Find Yellow Daffodil Online!

With the opening of the new store comes Yellow Daffodil's very own website (www.yellowdaffodil.org). The site features an in-depth look at the history of Yellow Daffodil, an introduction to the staff, and an overview of Yellow Daffodil's offerings and recent work. An online ordering feature will be added later this year. Yellow Daffodil can also be found on Facebook, Instagram, (@YellowDaffodilShop), and Flickr (YellowDaffodilShop).

Here for your Holiday Gift Needs!

From unique arrangements and beautiful homemade cards to seasonal candles, adorable gifts for children and pets, and BeechTree bath and body products, Yellow Daffodil is a one-stop-shop for all of your holiday gift needs!

Common Grounds Hits Milestone

Congratulations to the Common Grounds Café, which celebrated its one year anniversary on May 11! Common Grounds is located on the campus of Woods Services and is open to the public Monday-Friday from 7:30-4:30. Common Grounds Café employs numerous individuals in the Woods vocational program and proudly serves made-to-order breakfast and lunch sandwiches and also offers pastries, a premium salad bar, fresh hot soups, snacks, and hand dipped ice cream.

Beechtree products

It's not too early to start your holiday shopping! Make this season one to remember with bath & body products created with love by the individuals at Beechwood NeuroRehab! Visit http://www.beechtreeproducts.org to order hand sanitizers, lotions, and body washes in a variety of incredible scents for both men and women. Beechtree products can also be purchased at the Yellow Daffodil Flower and Gift Shop in Langhorne and the Yellow Daffodil kiosk at the Oxford Valley Mall.

Beechwood NeuroRehab, a program of Woods, is a community-integrated post-acute rehabilitation program that ensures individuals with brain injury are able to engage in productive and satisfying life roles

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Join us for an Out-of-this-World Experience!

Please save the date for our next HOLLYWoods: Red Carpet Gala, which will take place on Saturday, January 14, 2017, at The Fuge in Warminster, PA. This year we will pay tribute to the movie Avatar. One of the movie's central themes is accepting one another's differences, a theme that resonates with all of us at Woods.

RSVP today at www.hollywoodsgala.org!

Woods Increases Footprint in the Community

Community living is the ultimate goal for many of the individuals served by Woods. In the past year, Woods purchased two homes in Northeast Philadelphia that are considered traditional community group homes serving individuals with waiver funding.

We were able to move several of our recent female graduates who are from Pennsylvania into the one home. In the last year we also opened two homes in Langhorne and Middletown Township for consumers served by the Beechwood NeuroRehab program.

When one considers these four group homes, the Bensalem apartments operated by Beechwood, and the variety of community-based homes in the Langhorne area, roughly 10% of Woods consumers are now living in the community. We remain committed to increasing our community footprint over the next several years, both in terms of community homes and community employment.

The Power of Words- Striving for People-First Language

It has been nearly 25 years since Kathie Snow, an author and public speaker, published her first article addressing the notion of "People-First Language". Inspired by her son Benjamin, who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy when he was four months old, Snow encouraged everyone to utilize "People-First Language", which puts the person before the disability and describes what a person has, not who a person is. For example, saying "she has autism" instead of "she's autistic" or "people with disabilities" instead of "the handicapped or disabled".

Fast forward to 2016 and Snow is still making the rounds to educate parents, educators, and the general public about language sensitivity and an updated article entitled "To Ensure Inclusion, Freedom, and Respect for all, we must use People First Language" is utilized as a handout for training programs around the country. In the article, Snow makes several interesting observations including the fact that "people with disabilities constitute our nation's largest minority group" (one in five Americans has a condition that is considered to be a disability) and also points out that this group is the only one that any person can become a part of, at any time.

Each person struggles and succeeds in different ways. There are very few people out there who would prefer to be categorized by their "problems" (whether it is a physical disability, depression, anxiety, obesity, anorexia, or a number of other common issues) rather than the qualities, talents, and characteristics that make us all unique. The sooner we embrace and utilize "People-First Language", the sooner we can embrace each other as individuals and work to make this world a better place for everyone.

Have you included Woods in your estate plans but not told us? We'd like to recognize your gift! Call us at (215) 750-4214 for more information or email hstephens@woods.org.

IMPACTING OUR FIELD

A list of recent staff activities and accomplishments.

Drew Nagele, PsyD, CIST

Executive Director of Beechwood NeuroRehab

Publications
Wrote chapters titled, Brain Injury Overview, Cognitive Complications, Pediatrics and Adolescents in ***The Essential Brain Injury Guide***, Edition 5.0, Brain Injury Association of America, 2016.

Presentations
Presented at the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA), held September 12-15, 2016

Scott Spreat, EdD

President/CEO of Woods Services

Publications
Co-authored, Practice May Not Make Perfect, But Retaking Sure Helps: An Analysis of the Effects of Repeating the SAT in the ***Journal of the National College Testing Association***, 2016, Volume 2/ Issue 1.

Co-authored, Validity and Reliability of the Diagnostic Adaptive Behaviour Scale in the ***2016 Journal of Intellectual Disability Research***, *60*(1), 80-88.

Peter M. Shubiak, M.A.

Chief Operating Officer of Woods Resources

Publications
Co-authored, Social Enterprise: Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities in the ***Social Innovations Journal*** (Issue 28, Fall 2016).

Presentations
Spoke on panel titled, "Social Impact Executioners" during the Social Innovations Journal Edition 28: Social Innovations in Social Impact Investing and Public/Private Partnerships Kick-off on October 22, 2016.

Cheryl Kauffman

Vice President of Communications

Publications
Co-authored, Social Enterprise: Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities in the ***Social Innovations Journal*** (Issue 28, Fall 2016).

Terry Czarkowski, M.S.

Administrator of Education

Appointments
Serves as President of the Alliance for Approved Private Schools for 2016-2017.

Dan Weldon, Ed.D
Psychologist

Presentations
Presented on "The Grant Life-Cycle" to the staff of Woods and affiliate partners on September 29, 2016 at the E. Shermna Chase Employee Training Center.

Kathy Gostomski

Health Services Administrator

Presentations
Spoke on a panel about Nursing and other career avenues for women in the sciences at the #girlSTEM conference at Delaware Valley Community College offered by the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22.

We are proud of the number of staff involved in educating those coming into our field by teaching at universities or mentoring interns.

Departments Mentoring Interns
Dental Education
Nursing
Occupational Therapy
Physical Therapy
Psychology

Adjunct Faculty

Dr. Tom Blash
Chestnut Hill College, Psychology Department

Joe Campbell, MEd.
Philadelphia University, Health Administration, Occupational Therapy

Dr. Mary Ann Gataletto
University of Pennsylvania Dental School, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Preventive and Restorative Sciences, Division of Pediatric Dentistry, in the Associated Faculty of the School of Dental Medicine Rutgers School of Dental Medicine, the State University of New Jersey Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry

Dr. Drew Nagele
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Cathy Lepley
Cabrini College, Drexel University, mentors student teachers

A RUN TO

Cooler temps and light early morning rain didn't dampen the spirits of the 780 runners, walkers, and rollers who emerged on the grounds of Woods Services to participate in the second annual Run for Woods on Saturday, May 7. More than 1,000 registered for the event, which was presented again this year by Faulkner-Ciocca Dealerships, one of the largest automotive dealerships in eastern Pennsylvania. Thanks to hundreds of supporters, more than $207,000 was raised to provide important services and supports to the more than 675 individuals served by Woods.

The day kicked off with a visit from the Philly Phanatic, who made his rounds delighting spectators of all ages. The fun continued at the starting line as the Phanatic helped Zen Fitness trainer Danielle McCreery warm up the participants with a series of stretches and exercises. The opening ceremony included inspiring speeches from Woods residents Jumanne Jacob and Janine Davidovich. Janine thanked her staff for being role models and "helping me become the best me". Lisa Farrell, a local singer/songwriter performed a beautiful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.

On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!

Once the gun went off, 430 5K participants made their way through the Woods grounds into Langhorne Borough before returning to Woods to cross the finish line. More than 350 walkers participated in the 1 Mile Fun Walk which remained on campus. Steve Hallman was the top finisher, clocking in at 18:39 minutes, followed by Gordon Szabo at 19:22. The fastest female participant, coming in third place overall, was Justyna Wilson with a time of 19:28.

Once all participants received their commemorative medals at the finish line, it was time for some fun at the Fitness Fair! Children enjoyed the face painting and games while others visited vendors like Beachbody, Orange Theory Fitness, BeechTree bath and body products, Yellow Daffodil Flower and Gift Shop, and the Independence Blue Cross mobile health bus.

REMEMBER

SAVE THE DATE for the 3rd Annual Run for Woods: Saturday, May 6, 2017!

Gathering of Family and Friends

The second annual Run for Woods brought together groups of family and friends for a healthy event that supports a great cause. This year nearly

200 Woods residents and the staff who support them participated in the Run/Walk and many were able to spend the day with family members who came to join in on the fun.

"My son has had a very positive experience thanks to the Woods team. The Run for Woods is a chance to give something back, and every single client should have the chance to participate," said Peter DeNunzio, father of Woods resident Douglas DeNunzio. "Plus physical activity is good for everyone, especially when it's in such a fun environment. Congratulations on a very successful event."

Thank You Isn't Enough!

This important fundraising event would not be possible without the support of our Presenting Sponsor, Faulkner-Ciocca Dealerships.

"We were so fortunate to have more than 100 employees and friends from Faulkner-Ciocca supporting us again this year. Ten dealerships participated, from Allentown to Harrisburg, raising 47% of our total funds. That's extraordinary!" said Hilary Stephens, Vice President of Development at Woods. "I am not sure we could ever do it without their help. Their commitment to our success here at Woods is unparalleled."

Special thanks to all those who came together on May 7 to showcase not only the beautiful campus, but the wonderful camaraderie that exists at Woods.

3 Times a Winner!

The Run for Woods 5K was recently awarded three Best of 2016 awards by the Bucks County Courier Times in the following categories: Best Fundraiser, Best Family Event, and Best Outdoor Event. Thank you all for your votes and your continued support of this important event!

Thank You to our Fantastic Fall Volunteers!

Woods was a flurry of activity this fall with fun events like the Fall Festival, annual haunted house, SoapBox Derby, and much more! These activities wouldn't be possible without the dedication, creativity, and hard work of our recreation department and the numerous volunteers that lend a helping hand.

We would like to especially thank the two groups of volunteers from Janssen Pharmaceuticals, who helped out with Halloween crafts and the activities at the Fall Festival. From face painting to Jenga to football and parachute fun, we truly appreciate you taking the time to spend the day with us!

"All of our folks have been involved with many, many volunteer projects over the years and I think most would say this was one of the best!" said Peg Forrestal, Director, Contributions & Community Affairs at Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Thanks also to the Merck volunteer group who spent an afternoon in November making improvements to the horse corral at Woods. The corral is utilized extensively during the spring and summer months for equine therapy with individuals at Woods. Because the horses tend to push against the fence during therapy sessions, some of the rails were worn and in need of repair. The new fencing looks great!

Cerebral Palsy – From My Point of View

A Guest Blog by Lauren McGowan

Some people might underestimate the true beauty that Cerebral Palsy has to offer. Cerebral Palsy may be the result of a birth injury happening before, during or after the birthing process; a matter of oxygen not arriving at the brain quickly enough until it was too late, causing damage that can never be repaired.

Victims will have to compensate and learn basic things that most people master without trying. The extensive learning process will follow them throughout their whole lives resulting in some ongoing frustrations. A person will have to develop a great deal of patience and tolerance to live a normal life style Cerebral Palsy is a condition in which messages simply are not getting to the brain quickly enough.

Cerebral Palsy is a condition, not a disease. A condition that doesn't worsen over time, only improves with hard work and determination. Determination goes a long way with this condition. For individuals with this condition, physical therapy helps tremendously.

Physical therapy involves strengthening muscles and providing room for growth and development. Growth and development is powerful. It will take the individual a long way. Some people will argue that physical therapy is not a long term solution for people who suffer from Cerebral Palsy. Well, if you had a condition that never went away, you would want something that reduces the tension in the muscles.

People with Cerebral Palsy will sometimes feel discouraged because the world around them doesn't fully understand at times, but that feeling can truly inspire them. In the long run, inspiration is all someone really needs. Inspiration will lead a person with this condition to many different places. Places that they never even dreamed of going if the oxygen flowed though the brain on the first day of life. Yes, people that come into the world through unlucky circumstances are in fact very lucky in a hidden way.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lauren McGowan is a resident at Beechwood Neurorehab. She enjoys writing, Facebook, going to the mall, spending time with her family and friends and living life to the fullest. Lauren recently self-published the book *In Kayla's World, She's Never Afraid To Afraid To Have Big Dreams*, a tribute to her late best friend Kayla Jo Young.

Patrick Scotto dreams of starting his own band one day. For over a year, he has fostered his love of music with weekly drum and guitar lessons at R & M Studios in Langhorne. When asked about his favorite band or music genre, Patrick answers that he "loves all bands and all types of music." His music teacher discovered something unusual about Patrick– he has perfect pitch. Only one in ten thousand people have it, however many never discover the ability.

When he isn't paving the way for his future in music, Patrick keeps busy with his job at the Common Grounds Café at Woods. We are proud of Patrick for his determination and working hard towards achieving greater independence!

PLEASE CONNECT WITH US!

FACEBOOK
https://www.facebook.com/WoodsOrganization/

TWITTER
https://twitter.com/WoodsServices

INSTAGRAM
https://www.instagram.com/woodsservices/

EVENTS

Woods Swim Team Makes a Splash at George School Pool

The Woods swim team capped off its 2016 season with an exciting off-campus meet at The George School pool in Langhorne in late May. Since January, nearly 20 Woods residents gathered one afternoon each week to work on various swimming strokes, practice breathing techniques, and get prepared for competition.

Utilizing the 8-lane Marshall-Platt Pool at The George School gave Woods athletes a different kind of swimming experience.

"We were able to use a 25-meter pool with starting blocks, which they usually do not get to do. They practice in our pool which is only 18 meters in the racing lanes," said Beth O'Toole, Assistant Director of Recreation/Aquatics. "It was really fun for the swimmers to use the starting blocks during the meet. They were able to dive off of them and have a great time."

After each race, the top finishers stood proudly on the podium as they received their medals. By the end of the meet, several swimmers had received multiple medals.

Magical Night for Woodlands

Woodlands celebrated its annual prom on Thursday, April 28, at the Philadelphia Ballroom. The theme was "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and teachers and staff members dressed as characters from the Wizard of Oz. Everyone who attended enjoyed a night of dinner and dancing!

Teamwork and Sportsmanship Highlight Mollie Woods Olympics

The annual Mollie Woods Olympics were held over two weeks in March and included relay races, parachute games, kickball, memory match and life-size games of Candyland and Boggle. The Olympics kicked off with making, cheering, lighting the torch and staff challenges and included teams from Birchwood, Cedarwood, Redwood, Heatherwood, Buttonwood, Harewood, Forrest Hall, Maplewood, Shannon, Allgair/ Backhouse, Wildwood, Brown Hall/Front House, and 349.

Support your favorite charity when you shop this holiday

Amazon donates when you shop at **smile.amazon.com.**

amazonsmile

Type Woods Services in the charity search box to help empower the individuals at Woods to achieve their potential, reach their goals and lead fulfilling lives.

Brookwood School Expands Vocational Opportunities for Students

Once again, Woods is providing innovative leadership as it recently opened The Brookwood School, which provides vocational work-based learning and training experiences to successfully transition youth and young adults with disabilities to competitive, integrated employment and community life. It will also help students with disabilities begin to identify career interests that will be explored through additional vocational and pre-employment experiences.

"We believe that creating successful high school work experiences for our students will lead to an increase in job readiness and higher adult employment rates," said Director of Brookwood, Maura Roberts. According to the United States Department of Labor only 19.8 percent of people with disabilities who are over the age of 16 are employed, compared to 68.8 percent of those without disabilities. Woods is responding to a critical priority for the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, which supports the Employment First initiative to increase the employment rate for individuals with disabilities.

As an extension of Woods' Educational Program, the Brookwood School will give Woods the capacity to offer a transitional education program that provides pre-vocational work-based learning and pre-employment training experiences to up to 70 additional students annually. This will increase their chance of a successful, seamless transition to integrated, competitive employment and more independent living post-graduation.

Pen Pal Breakfast

Last year, several of our residents became pen pals with fourth grade students at Oliver Heckman Elementary School. They started communicating after the students had written essays about their observations after cheering for Woods individuals who were walking in the National Disability Employment Awareness Month parade at Woods.

Students and Woods consumers began communicating about their lives and making offers of friendship. After months of letters and cards back and forth, the two groups got to meet for the first time and created bird houses together. What a great experience for all involved!

Operation DreamLift a Dream Come True for Twins at Woods

Twin brothers Rasheed and Rashaun got the opportunity of a lifetime when they were chosen by the Sunshine Foundation to participate in Operation Dreamlift on May 3. The Sunshine Foundation's 95th annual Operation Dreamlift answered the dreams of 84 chronically ill, seriously ill, physically challenged and abused children ages 3 to 18 by providing a once in a lifetime one-day excursion to Disney World's Magic Kingdom.

Rasheed, Rashaun and their staff boarded a plane at the National Guard Aviation Facility at the Trenton-Mercer Airport at 8 a.m. to cheers and waves of volunteers dressed as Disney characters. The Mercer County Chapter of the Sunshine Foundation raises $200,000 to make this trip possible every year.

A huge thank you to the Sunshine Foundation for providing this opportunity for Rasheed and Rashaun!

Sensory Concert Honors Stephen Francisco

For the second year, The Conservatory of Doylestown held a sensory concert at The Kimmel Center for individuals with special needs that honored a former longtime Woods resident with a love of music, Stephen Francisco! Stephen's sisters, Jane Francisco and Mary Miller, gave a gift to Woods that provides music instruction and entertainment to individuals in our adult program. Dr. Scott Spreat presented Ms. Francisco and Mrs. Miller with the Jane Cowles Stewardship Award in recognition of their commitment to Woods.

"Woods is grateful to Jane Francisco and Mary and Dwight Miller for recognizing the importance of music and its impact on the quality of life for all people, but especially for those with disabilities," claims Hilary Stephens, Woods Vice President of Development. It is not often that Woods consumers have the opportunity to attend a performance at the Kimmel Center, so this was a true delight..

Tom Grant Named VP/CFO of Woods

Tom Grant was selected to serve as the Vice President/ Chief Financial Officer for Woods Services and Woods Resources in March. Grant filled the role on an interim basis for 6 months before accepting the position. Prior to coming to Woods, Grant ran his own management consulting firm specializing in leadership strategic planning, turnarounds, and business development needs of both non-profit organizations and for profit businesses. In this role, he served as the Chief Financial Officer for Archway Programs, a Woods affiliate. Prior to starting his own company, he held similar management consulting positions with a number of business development companies. He also has worked as an emerging markets analyst in Thailand, Hong Kong, and a number of South American countries. Grant holds a bachelor's degree from Davidson College and an MBA from the Darden Graduate School of Business at the University of Virginia.

Leadership Change in the Mollie Woods Program

Janet McIlvaine retired from her position as the Mollie Woods Executive Director in June after serving at Woods for 32 years. "Janet McIlvaine has devoted her entire adult life to providing quality services to individuals who have intellectual disability, and she has grown to be one of the most effective administrators with whom I have had the pleasure of working ,both here and at Temple's Woodhaven Center," stated Dr. Scott Spreat. "Over the years, she has been a rock solid professional on whom one could constantly depend for good judgment, compassion, and intelligence. The people who live at Woods, their families, and the staff who support them have all benefitted from Janet's leadership."

Beverly Hock accepted the position of Program Services Administrator of the Mollie Woods Program in replacement of Janet McIlvaine. Hock began her career at Woods in 1986 and has contributed to Woods success as a Recreation Specialist, Program Specialist, Residential Manager, Recreation Director, and Residential Director at Beechwood NJ, Crestwood, and most recently, Mollie Woods. She is an innovator and has helped to develop numerous highly-effective training programs for Woods. Hock is a tremendous advocate for the individuals served by Woods and leads by example.

Introducing the New Woods Book Club

The Woods Book Club is made up of a group of Woods employees who enjoy reading and meets each month to discuss a chosen book. The book for the month of May was *Story of Beautiful Girl* and October's book was *Riding the Bus with my Sister*, both written by Rachel Simon. The group was thrilled to have a surprise personal call from the author herself during their discussion session in May. A big thank you to Rachel for her insight on the book, as well as sharing her inspiration for writing it. Woods is looking to invite Rachel to come speak to our staff, as well as the general public, so look for more information in the future. For more information on the Woods Book Club visit http://woodsbookclub.weebly.com/.

Simon Kimmelman Named Senior VP/ General Counsel

Simon Kimmelman was named Senior Vice President and General Counsel for Woods Services in March, 2016. He was most recently a member of Sills Cummis & Gross P.C. and served as Managing Partner of the Firm's Princeton, New Jersey office. Mr. Kimmelman's practice was focused on business bankruptcy, secured transactions, general corporate matters and commercial litigation. He has represented major entities involved in many of the most significant Chapter 11 cases filed in New Jersey as well as in several other jurisdictions. He served as the bankruptcy trustee for Kiwi International Airlines and John Z. DeLorean.

He is a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and former Chair of both the Bankruptcy Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association and the Lawyers' Advisory Committee to the New Jersey Bankruptcy Court. Mr. Kimmelman has been involved in a variety of charitable endeavors and most recently served as President of Har Sinai Temple in Pennington, New Jersey. He also served as a long-standing Member and Board Chair of the Woods Resources Board of Trustees.

Mr. Kimmelman received his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and his law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School.

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