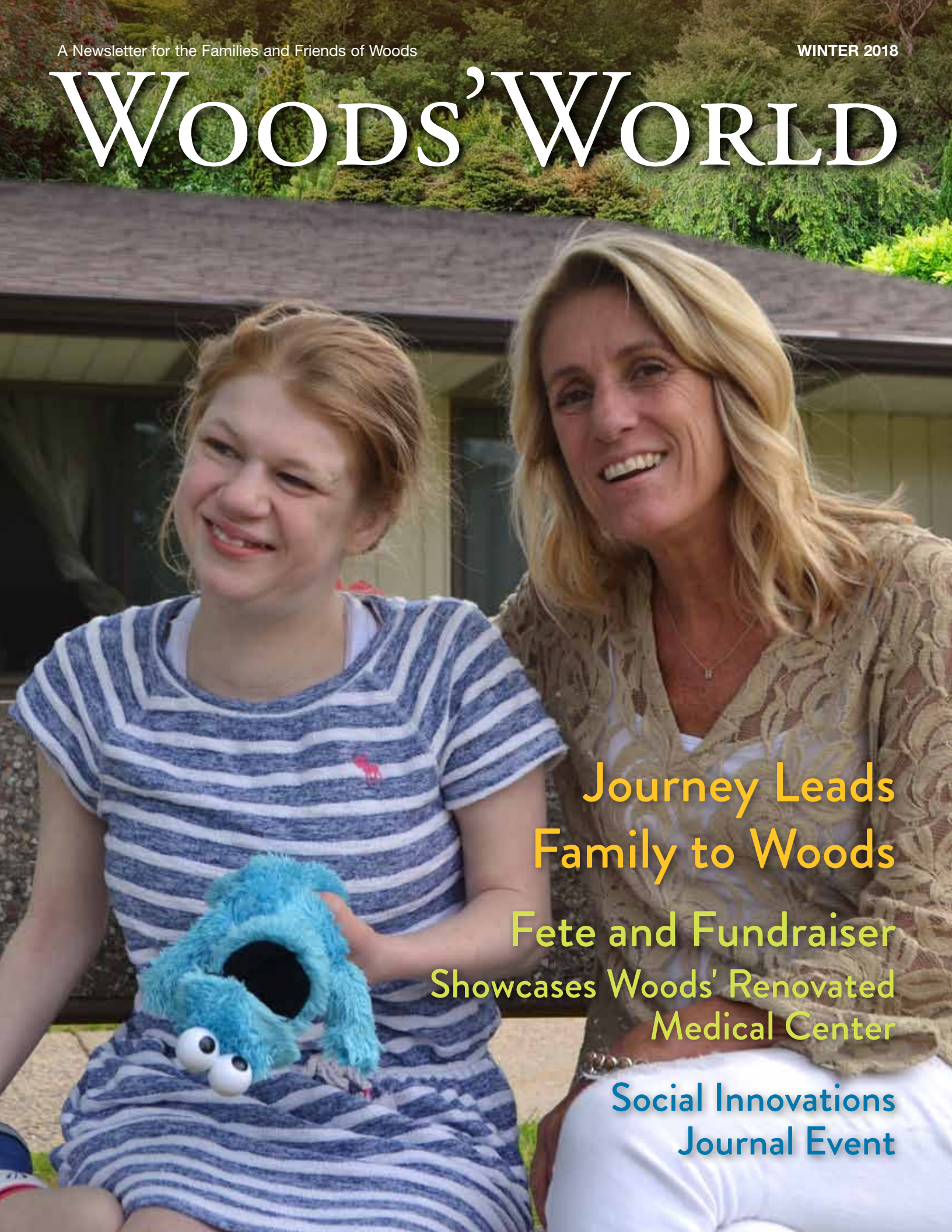
A Newsletter for the Families and Friends of Woods

WINTER 2018

# Woods' World



## Journey Leads Family to Woods

## Fete and Fundraiser Showcases Woods' Renovated Medical Center

## Social Innovations Journal Event

# Journey Leads Family to Woods

*Each year, Beth rallies together a group of family and friends, including Anna's father, Roger, and her sister Caroline, and brother, Joseph, to participate on the "Anna's Anchors" team in the annual Run for Woods.*


**WOODS' WORLD**

WINTER 2018

Published by the
Communications Department
215-750-4215

We welcome your comments
on *Woods' World*.
Please send them to:

Katie Carnevale
Communications Manager
Woods Services0P.O. Box 36
Langhorne, PA 19047

Or email them to
kcarnevale@woods.org



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"We've all had days that we will never forget: a wedding, the birth of a child, the death of a loved one. For me, it was the day we took Anna to the neurologist and received her diagnosis. The word that I remember from that day was 'grim'. More specifically, we were told her future was extremely 'grim'."

Beth Angrick remembers that day so clearly because it was the day her daughter Anna, just 10 months old at the time, was diagnosed with a metabolic disorder called Pyruvate Dehydrogenase Deficiency. This means Anna's brain didn't develop correctly in utero and it caused global delays in her development. The Angricks were told that Anna would never sit up, never walk, never go to school, and that most children with her diagnosis don't survive past the age of three.

"It seemed impossible and unimaginable to us," Beth said. "But Anna has blown us away. Anna has blown her doctors away. Actually, Anna has blown everyone away."

Anna has made incredible strides ever since that grim diagnosis and has enjoyed a very full life at Woods for the last two and a half years. She is not only able to sit up, but can walk on her own, has participated in 5Ks, rides horses, climbs stairs, goes bowling, and uses sign language. She recently celebrated her 21st birthday with a big party at home surrounded by friends and family, including her mother Beth, her father Roger, and younger siblings Caroline and Joseph, with whom she shares a special bond.

"Anna is the 'big-little sister' as we say. They love her so much and they've learned so much from her and they've become the people they are because of her," said Beth. "They watch her struggle to do the simplest things and they don't take anything for granted. They would do anything for her and will always be her advocate, her voice."

The path to the fulfilling life Anna enjoys at Woods wasn't always an easy one for her and her family. Once she was mobile and while still living at home, Anna started to become curious about the world around her. She started getting into accidents and putting herself in harm's way and it was clear to her family that she needed supervision at all times. Before finding Woods, most of the programs the Angricks visited were community group homes that were unable to meet Anna's medical and dietary needs and could not provide the safe environment she required. She is on a high-fat, no-carb ketogenic diet, and receives liquids through a feeding tube. Anna also requires a 1 to 1 staff member to be with her at all times.

After careful research and visits to other residential facilities, the Angricks took a tour of Woods. The first people they met were Bev Hock, Administrator of the Mollie Woods Program, and Christina Santana, former Program Specialist at Heatherwood and current Rehabilitation Case Manager at Holland Enrichment Center.

"We immediately hit it off with both (Bev and Christina). We got to learn a lot about Woods and both were incredible at explaining everything and answering our questions. We had been looking for a program like this for two years and this was the first time we thought 'oh my God, this could work," said Beth. "It was the hardest decision we ever made but we always said if we found the right fit for her that we would embrace it."

Beth credits several Woods staff members, including Anna's first 1 to 1 staff, Samantha Sherry, her current 1 to 1 staff, Sandra Thompson, and Rashida Clegg, Heatherwood's Program Specialist, with the "life-changing success" that Anna has experienced. In addition to meeting her medical and safety needs, Woods has opened up a whole new world for Anna by providing her with educational, social, and recreational opportunities.

"I love to see her in her environment when we come visit her (at Woods). There's so much going on and she is so interested and engaged in all of it. She is more social, engaging, and interactive than she was at home," said Beth. "She loves to go to Sesame Place! We never thought in a million years that she would go on rides but she does!"

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# Woods' Equestrian Program Continues to Expand

It's no secret that the Equestrian Program at Woods is very popular with residents, students, day program members, and employees alike. Take a walk around Woods on any given summer day and you will most likely encounter horses visiting a residence or taking a stroll around the corral with an excited rider. This past summer, Woods had the opportunity to host not just one, not two, but three horses, giving hundreds of individuals the opportunity to visit, ride, and take care of Mollie, Jeannie and miniature Cindy during the three-month summer program.

The first week of the program starts with an introduction to the horses then incorporates a variety of opportunities including petting, riding, feeding, caretaking, and in some cases, facing their own fears.

"One resident was very nervous to go near the horse because the horse wouldn't stand still. It took all summer to get her on the horse but she was very excited and proud of herself once she did. All she talks about is riding now!" said Jacqueline Jones, Lead Equestrian at Woods.

One resident named Jayden was particularly interested in helping out. He worked two days a week at the corral and helped to feed, brush, and clean up after the horses.

"Jayden loves animals and would work extra hard during school to earn the time so he could work at the corral," said Beth O'Toole, Director of Recreation/Aquatics for the Mollie Woods Program.

In addition to learning respect and responsibility, there are many benefits to equine therapy including physical (can help improve balance, tone, and coordination), psychological (improved self-esteem and self-confidence) and educational (improves attention and concentration).

"The horses allow the kids to be tactile and make eye contact with another living individuals all the while they may struggle to do so with other people," said Jones. "The kids tend to build very special bonds with our horses."

# Thursday Is the Best Day at Holland

If you ask Christina Mingione what her favorite day of the week is, she will proudly tell you "Thursday!" This is the day that Jan Augenblick and her therapy dog, Pansy, come to visit the Holland Enrichment Center at Woods each week. Christina, a Woods resident and Holland member, has the special job of holding Pansy's leash and leading her to the classrooms at Holland to visit members. But Christina isn't the only one who looks forward to the visits.

"Visiting Woods every Thursday is a magical experience. Pansy had a sense of what to expect because we had worked in a pediatric hospital for about a year," said Jan. "What we didn't expect was to fall in love with all of our friends."

The opportunity to visit the Holland Enrichment Center each week came at just the right time for Jan and Pansy. Last November, Pansy's sister, Maddie, passed away and Pansy fell into a deep depression. Pansy had worked as a therapy dog before and Jan thought it might be a good idea to get her back into it. Jan's friend, Carolyn Reichenbach, a member of the Woods Services Board of Trustees, suggested that Pansy visit Woods to see if it would be a good fit.

"After a few weeks of visiting we knew we had found our place at Woods. There she seemed to flourish and loved going from classroom to classroom undaunted by wheelchairs and lovingly reaching arms," said Jan. "Pansy was back to being her former perky and loving self. It was a win for all of us."

Pansy, a 13-year-old Black Lab, is the third rescue dog for Jan and her family. Once Jan saw how sweet and gentle Pansy was with Maddie, she was convinced that Pansy should become a therapy dog. Pansy had to pass extensive tests including sitting, coming, remaining calm in a crowded situation, reacting favorably to loud noises, being enclosed by wheelchairs, riding in an elevator, and not eating food from the floor. Pansy has served as a therapy dog for many organizations and schools including the Roxy Reading Group, New Hope Solebury Middle School, Central Bucks School District, Pediatric Specialty Care, and the Bucks County Courthouse, where she comforted children who were waiting to be placed in foster care.

"At the pediatric hospital she would climb three steps so that the children who could not move could feel her warmth when she would lay her head against them," said Jan. "When she was in the reading groups she let the children pop their books up against her flanks and petted her as they read knowing they wouldn't be judged."

In addition to all of her new friends at Woods, Pansy also has a new sister at home named Betty, a "loving wiggly three-year-old Lab". Betty recently started therapy training so she can fill in for Pansy when she needs some rest. Jan looks forward to introducing Betty to all of their new friends at Woods.

"The most rewarding part of our experience is knowing that for a short time every Thursday we can touch the hearts of our dearest friends knowing that they always look forward to one more visit," said Jan.

# Day at the RACES

"And they're off!"

An unseasonably warm day in the fall set the stage for the first annual Woods' Day at the Races, held at PARX Racing in Bensalem. Nearly 60 people, including Woods residents, family members, and staff members, came out to enjoy an afternoon of horse racing, food, and mingling. All attendees from Woods were invited into the winner's circle following the first race, which was aptly named "The Woods Services Classic". Thank you to everyone who attended and to PARX for hosting this fun outing!

## 2017 A Big Year for Grants

- $50,000 from the W. Duke Kimbrell Family Foundation will support the Music Appreciation and Therapy Program, which is funded exclusively through private donations. The program provides a variety of musical experiences for children and adults at Woods. Activities include group therapy sessions where they practice self-reflection and guided mediation. They also participate in chorus groups, sing-a-longs and attend recitals by professional musicians from The Conservatory, a nonprofit organization that provides music therapy, appreciation, and instruction to our residents.
- $15,000 from The McLean Contributionship will support a portion of the start-up costs of expanding Woods Services' medical center. Woods has provided health care for its residents, as well as employee health services, for many years. Woods seeks to become more aligned with the health care sector to improve care, reduce health disparities experienced by people with intellectual disability, and reduce costs associated with unnecessary emergency room visits and hospitalizations.
- $10,000 from the TD Charitable Foundation will support Woods Wear, a new social enterprise that will produce and market silkscreened clothing. The project will create more opportunities for integrated, competitive employment, offering jobs that people with a wide range of abilities can do, such as counting, sorting and folding.
- $7,200 from the Widener Memorial Foundation will support the renovation of a training kitchen for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Located in the Gardner Education Center, the kitchen will provide students with a larger, wheelchair accessible space to support learning and the development of life skills, such as menu planning, prepping and cooking ingredients and making healthy food choices. These skills will help students successfully transition into life in the community after graduation and gain greater independence.
- $3,000.00 from the Genuardi Family Foundation will support the expansion of one of Woods' social enterprises, the Common Grounds Café, and will specifically fund new equipment needed to expand the variety of food offered by the Café. More importantly, it will increase the number of vocational training and employment opportunities for the individuals we serve.

# Wednesdays at the Woods Bike Repair Shop

If you ask Woods resident Shawn Cain what his favorite day of the week is he will respond enthusiastically by saying "Oh, that's easy…Wednesday!" It might seem like an unusual response for an 11-year-old boy but for Shawn, Wednesday is the day that he gets to spend time working alongside his new best buddy, Steve Smalley, a maintenance worker in Woods' Facilities Department. Each Wednesday the duo reports to the bike repair shop on Woods' campus at noon and work together for an hour or so to get residents' bikes back in working order. The repairs often require them to replace bike chains and tires but Steve allows Shawn to perform many tasks during their time at the shop.

"I let him unlock the door, turn on the lights, get the tools out, and put on a tool belt and then we get to work fixing the bikes," said Steve. "We are only a few weeks in but he can already do so many things. I keep him busy with work and he keeps me busy with questions. He really wants to learn about all of this stuff."

> "I feel like someone was watching over us and brought Shawn and I together."

Shawn's questions began even before the two started working together, a vision that came to fruition just a few weeks ago. The pair first met when Steve visited Gardner Education Center, the school at Woods that Shawn attends. Shawn showed interest in the work that Steve and other maintenance workers were doing and Steve certainly took notice. In November, Steve was honored at Woods' annual employee recognition dinner for the creation of the bike repair shop, which is giving new life to dozens of residents' bikes that are in need of TLC. A chance conversation between Steve and Woods' CEO, Tine Hansen-Turton, led to an almost instant pairing of the two.

"I had this idea almost immediately after I started talking to Shawn. I really thought he could benefit from working with me," Steve said. "I spoke with a few people about it but once I talked to Tine things were set up right away. I saw Shawn shortly after and he ran up to me and was so excited that we were going to get to work together."

The quick bond that Shawn and Steve have formed is an unexpected surprise given all that the two have been through in their own lives. Shawn has experienced and overcome many challenges in his life. His friendship with Steve is a great source of comfort and happiness after difficult and abruptly severed relationships over which he had no control. Steve lost his son, also named Sean, in an accident in 2010. Sean shared Steve's love of and talent for fixings things and the two often worked on projects together, something Steve has missed the last few years.

"I really enjoy working with him and Wednesday is now also my happiest day of the week. I know this has been really good for him but it has also been great for me," said Steve. "I feel like someone was watching over us and brought Shawn and I together."

# FÊTE AND FUNDRAISER

## Showcases Woods' Renovated Medical Center

*Woods' Fête registration volunteers pose for a photo during a break from checking in guests.*

*Fête guests enjoyed dancing to the City Rhythm band.*

*Nineteen local establishments provided food, spirits, and desserts to Fête guests, including the Greensleeves Village Bake Shop, which is a social enterprise of Allies, an affiliate of Woods.*

For the first time ever, Woods had its annual fundraiser on campus at the Chase Employee Training Center. The goal was to attract families, friends and staff to the Davenport Medical Center to see how Woods is "Building Health and Wellness" by creating an integrated health center that provides primary care and added services such as lab work and x-rays to improve care coordination and reduce unnecessary ER visits.

Ahi Tuna Sashimi, Lump Crab Soup, Baby Back Ribs, Crepes, and Fine Wines were just a few of the delicacies that were provided by 19 area restaurants at Woods' Fête and Fundraiser on January 20. Nearly 250 people enjoyed a night of food and wine, mingling and dancing as the Woods community came together to celebrate building health and wellness at Woods.

More than $318,000 was raised for Woods, including $61,350 during the event's special appeal to raise funds to upgrade the technology needed to enhance our health services, including a new Electronic Medical Record. This technology will significantly improve our capacity to provide care coordination, track health outcomes, more effectively manage chronic diseases, and implement prevention programs.

In addition to the special appeal, the Fête program included a live auction, which raised $12,700 and featured a package to see "Frozen" on Broadway in New York City, as well as opportunities to watch the Sixers, Flyers, and Phillies from the luxurious Independence Blue Cross suite.

The Fête program also introduced the Dr. Leonard J. Graziani Nursing Fellowship at Woods. The Fellowship builds on Dr. Graziani's support of nursing over the years and establishes an innovative program that introduces Woods staff pursuing nursing degrees, as well as nurses currently working at Woods, to community-based and population health nursing, advocating for an expanded role for community nursing in our healthcare system.

Following the Fête program, guests had an opportunity hit the dance floor to enjoy tunes from City Rhythm. Whether you attended, sponsored, donated, or volunteered, your support helps us to enhance the lives of the 680 individuals served by Woods! To view photos from the Woods' Fête and Fundraiser, visit http://bit.ly/WoodsFête.

# Enhancing Care Coordination

Woods has provided quality primary care and nursing services for more than 100 years. In fact, Woods' founder Mollie Woods hired her sister Florence as the first nurse for the students attending her pioneering program. Woods' health care professionals have specialized expertise in treating people with very complex medical and behavioral health concerns. Woods is limited however in treating people who need lab work or x-rays or who have more serious medical concerns at night or on the weekends when a physician is on-call but not on site. This has resulted in a significant number of emergency room visits and disruption for residents that Woods would like to alleviate.

Woods is now poised to expand its health services by creating a robust health center, which will provide primary care through an advanced-practice-led interdisciplinary approach, in order to improve health outcomes through better care coordination. This health center will be the first of its kind in the nation, focusing on a population health management approach for people with intellectual disability and behavioral and medical challenges. Our goal is to improve the continuum of care, in particular for people who reside at Woods for a period of time and then return to their communities, such as Philadelphia, allowing Woods to maintain continuity of care for this vulnerable patient population over their lifespans.

Woods now plans to become more aligned with the health care sector, to allow for a sustainable way to provide primary care and specialty care for both clients and staff. This will be accomplished by a three-pronged strategy:

- Expanding and reorganizing the existing medical center to add new primary care providers, additional exam rooms, and a new lab and radiology services;
- Expanding employee health services to provide primary, urgent and preventive care; and
- Expanding educational opportunities in the medical, nursing and related services to build a cadre of providers in Pennsylvania who can better serve this vulnerable population.

Woods employs nearly 1,500 direct service staff, many of whom experience health disparities and chronic conditions. Many staff work overtime or take on extra shifts in order to sustain their families, and cannot easily access preventative primary care. By expanding the employee health services to include primary care, Woods seeks to improve the health outcomes and quality of life for staff who provide care to the vulnerable population Woods serves. So that Woods' employees can more easily access primary care, they will be offered services at the medical center, as needed. Primary care will be provided by a nurse practitioner who is experienced in workplace health and primary care.

Woods will immediately offer medical care to people being served by its affiliate, Woods Community at Brian's House, and over time will expand to offer care to people served by Woods' other affiliates, as well as also offer care for people in the broader community with IDD and behavioral challenges.

The Davenport Medical Center at Woods was made possible by the renovation of existing spaces within the Davenport Medical Clinic.

The following contributions have been made in support of the Medical Center expansion:

- Family of Billy Herling for a Radiology Suite $100,000
- Brian and Tine Hansen-Turton $ 15,000
- Si and Lisa Kimmelman for a new exam room $ 15,000
- Synergy Pharmacy for a new exam room $ 15,000
- The McLean Contributionship for a new exam room $ 15,000

The goals of the health and wellness expansion are to continue to improve the quality of care and health outcomes among people with IDD and behavioral challenges, in part through training providers, medical and nursing students to more effectively serve individuals with intellectual disability, to ensure program sustainability, to continue to reduce unnecessary emergency room visits and hospitalizations, and to improve employee health.

"I must thank you and all those wonderful children for warming my heart and touching my soul. I left with one void – I need to come back again and again."

# Merck Gives Back

This past summer, many students at Woods had some very special visitors – a sales team from Merck Pharmaceuticals. The Mollie Woods Recreation staff originally organized the event to be outside, but due to the sweltering heat that day, the volunteers joined students in the Gardner Education Gym to play games like parachute, musical chairs and kick ball.

"It was such a joy to see the happiness, laughter and dancing throughout the day and I was humbled to be a tiny part of that experience," said Tara Wentz –Brown. "Your staff is truly amazing and it's so touching to see their love and dedication to the children they serve. I'm so grateful to Woods for welcoming us into your day and so appreciative of Merck for allowing us the time to share the joy of service with my wonderful team."

The water ice served at the end of the event was a huge hit with everyone.

# Ready, Set, Go!

A great time was had by all at the 4th annual Woods Soapbox Derby, which was held in the fall. Special thanks to Ray Mongillo and the Bucks County Soapbox Derby volunteers for all of their hard work in setting up and running this event for Woods each year!

"Our residents really have a blast racing their peers down the hill with the help from a volunteer driver. They are extremely excited to guess how many miles an hour they each went down the hill and talk about how many wins they have—some even keeping track from years past! It is a day filled with racing and fun with friends. We look forward to it every fall!" said Beth O'Toole, Director of Recreation for the Mollie Woods Program.

# The Family Center at Willowood is Now Open!

The Family Center at Willowood has been completed! We are so thankful to all of the donors, contractors, designers, and Woods' staff members who helped this dream become a reality! This year-long project was in response to interest expressed by Woods' families to create a space on campus for families who come to visit their loved ones. We decided to renovate the former Willowood Lodge, transforming the old cafeteria from what was a summer camp lodge, into three new meeting rooms as well as a kitchen and a dining room where birthdays, holidays, or other special occasions can be celebrated.

The Family Center at Willowood is open to all Woods' families and can be reserved for day visits. We encourage families to visit and want to help them make the most of their time here. If you wish to reserve a room in the Family Center, please call Angela Perkins at 215-750-4273 or email her at angela.perkins@woods.org.

In addition, Woods has contracts with two local hotels for special pricing for overnight rooms. In each case, please mention Woods in order to receive the special rate.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, LANGHORNE
$93 per night + tax
215-757-4500

SHERATON BUCKS COUNTY
$109 per night + tax
215-269-3408

# Social Innovations Journal Event Held at Woods

September 26th was a day of collaboration and innovation at Woods Services as representatives from a variety of human service organizations in Bucks County came together for the launch of the 39th edition of the Social Innovations Journal. The event featured a keynote address by Tracy Wareing Evans, President and CEO of the American Public Human Services Association, who spoke to the value of private-public partnerships and the current state of human services. The event also included the sharing of stories of innovative partnerships and individuals served by the human services system and a panel discussion consisting of staff representing a variety of human services in the county.

The Social Innovations Journal in partnership with Bucks County Human Services, Woods Services, and Magellan Health Services published the Fall 2017 edition that examines successful and innovative models and partnerships within the Bucks County, PA region as an example of how health and human services organizations are innovating across the country. This edition specifically explores new innovative models of care for Aging Populations; Mental and Behavioral Health; Children and Youth; Drug and Alcohol; and Physical and Developmental Disabilities.

Eight Woods staff submitted six articles for publication to this edition of the Social Innovations Journal. They can be found at http://www.socialinnovationsjournal.org/.

# Mortimer Bates receives award at Woods' Fête & Fundraiser

It's a long trip from Quincy, Florida to Langhorne, Pennsylvania, especially if you don't like the cold weather in January, but friends and family of Mortimer Bates traveled from three states to attend the annual Woods Fête and Fundraiser on January 20 to see Mortimer Bates receive a well-deserved honor: the Jane Cowles Stewardship Award, the highest honor offered by Woods Services each year to one of its most loyal donors.

*Mortimer Bates lived at Woods from 1948-1957.*

Mortimer came to Woods in 1948 at age nine. After attending school at Woods for nearly 10 years, "Mort" moved to Florida to be closer to his family. While at Woods, Mortimer developed an interest in photography, which he studied after completing high school in Florida. He went on to become a wedding photographer, retiring in 2003.

In a video interview aired at Woods Fête and Fundraiser on Saturday, January 20th, Mort remarked on the strong impact that Woods had on him, both in terms of developing his interest in photography and the life-long relationships he made, "As an adult, I realized how much Woods helped me." One of Mort's closest friends from Woods was on hand for the Award Ceremony.

Mort's loyalty to Woods has been sustained through annual gifts from his family foundation. His generosity has helped many individuals at Woods achieve their highest potential, reach their goals and lead fulfilling lives.

*Mortimer Bates poses with Woods President/CEO Tine Hansen-Turton and Woods Board Chair Kevin Sheetz after receiving the Jane Cowles Stewardship Award at the Woods' Fête.*

More than 250 guests attended Woods Annual Fête and Fundraiser and more than $318,000 was raised at the event to renovate and expand the Davenport Medical Center at Woods.

Go to http://bit.ly/Batesaward to watch Mortimer's story!

# Innovation at Woods

A home health care operation to serve individuals with special needs.

An internship program to introduce recent college graduates to the Health and Human Services industry.

A national campaign to encourage companies to hire employees with disabilities.

These are just a few of the ideas that were shared in front of an audience of peers and panel of judges at the Social Innovations Journal, Institute, and Lab pitch event at Woods in September. Nearly 40 staff members from Woods and its' affiliates participated in the 5-month lab program, which provides a unique opportunity to develop an innovative new business model that helps to solve a problem or fill a gap in our organization or the greater human services field. Groups worked together to develop presentations and business plans for a chance to be awarded some of the $100,000 in seed money provided by the Woods Services Foundation.

Special thank you to our judges including Woods' affiliate CEOs: Marge Conner-Levin, Archway Programs, Elise Tretola, Allies, Inc., Lori Plunkett, Woods Community at Brian's House, and Tinesha Banks, Tabor Services; as well as Woods Services Board members Alice DeVoe and Ted Weerts, and Woods Services COO Peter Shubiak.

## Harcum Program Comes to Woods

**Congratulations to the first cohort of Woods' staff members who began their journey to obtaining a degree in Human Services from Harcum College last month! Woods now offers employees the opportunity to enroll in a low-cost associate's degree program that meets right on Woods' campus. We are proud of the 15 Woods employees who are enrolled and looking to earn a degree and advance their careers!**

# A Word from the BeechTree Manager

*By Chris Rushforth, BeechTree Manager*

After several months of preparation, BeechTree Enterprises made its move to a new location during the month of November 2017. This move was a necessary step towards providing a community integrated workplace for the participants of BeechWood Neuro-Rehab Centers' Vocational Program, as well as providing more space for BeechTree production.

*BeechTree employee Adam Green assembles favors for the Social Innovations Journal Awards.*

BeechTree Enterprises now accommodates up to 15 workers in a newly updated facility which is close to a local bus stop, a deli, and other local stores.

Every worker arrives by public transportation and/or a Beechwood shuttle. Each participant is responsible for clocking in, packing a lunch, and coming to work every day prepared to get busy!

BeechTree was in demand all through 2017 and especially during the holiday season. Throughout the year we have been able to create a noteworthy web presence with automated marketing tools which bring in customers from all over the United States. After all the activity of the holidays, we are now able to restock inventory, reconnect with existing partners, and look forward to a new productive year.

We just finished preparing a large order of favors for the Social Innovations Partners Convention on January 24. This was a great opportunity for us to spread the word about our Social Enterprise and meet new people.

Sales have grown about 400%, compared to the previous year. We are aiming for a meaningful 2018 filled with positive impact on the local community and the customers we serve.

# Yellow Daffodil is Langhorne's "Hidden Gem"

*By Ginny Page, Flower Shop Manager*

Downtown Langhorne hides an adorable little flower shop that is truly the best kept secret of the borough. The Yellow Daffodil is nestled on the corner of the Pine Watson Shopping Center and captures passersby with a delightful window dressed for each season and filled with colorful, delicate blossoms.

As you peek inside this little shop you will also see an artistry of handmade gifts that are as unique as they are enchanting. Hand-painted seasonal birdhouses hang about the shop ranging in likeness from inquisitive owls to a nautical octopus! There are roosters, hens and bunnies for spring and santas, elves, and penguins for winter. Each season brings a new line of the hand painted gourds and wooden birdhouses.

The shop boasts an amazing line of its' own hand-poured soy candles bursting with fragrance in more than 20 different scents. From their signature floral infused 'Yellow Daffodil' to delicious scents such as Cocoa Kisses, there is a fragrance to suit every mood and season. This little gift shop has an abundance of gifts for any occasion

beginning with hand poured soap sets for only $3.00 all the way to cozy handmade beds for your furry companions.

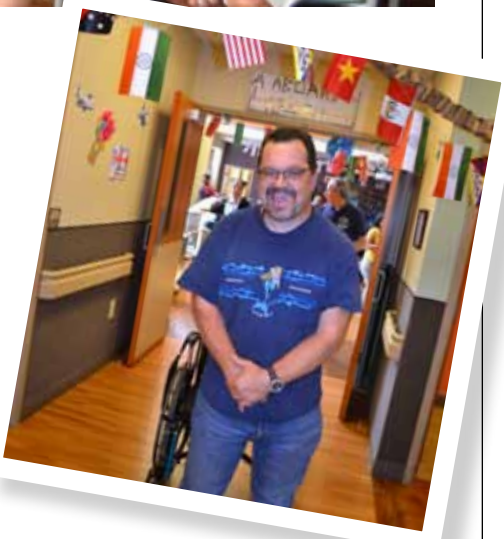
As you drift about the shop delighting in all of the unique treasures, it may come as a surprise that every beautiful item is handmade and sold by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Every flower arrangement and craft the Yellow Daffodil sells is touched by the hands of the residents at Woods Services. The main flower shop, located at 11 Woods Drive on the campus of Woods, houses a workshop where the flowers are transformed into beautiful arrangements. This also is where the gift items sold in the two stores are created by a team composed of both people with disabilities and those without. Together this team has built and created its' own stunning floral arrangements and complete gift line that fill the charming Yellow Daffodil shops.

So next time you are strolling through downtown Langhorne borough, stop in at the Yellow Daffodil at the Pine Watson Shopping Center and see what amazing ideas they come up with next! Can't travel to Langhorne? Our candles can be shipped anywhere in the U.S. and we offer local delivery for our arrangements. Visit www.yellowdaffodil.org for more information!

*Nathan Lydick and Avi Saltzman (above) work hard to keep the Yellow Daffodil shops running smoothly.*

**This article originally appeared in the Langhorne Ledger.*

# Around the World at the Beechwood Clubhouse



The Beechwood Clubhouse threw a fun Travel Party in September that included food and fun in honor of all of the fun places that members have traveled to or would like to visit! Members had fun creating festive decorations and posters with information about a number of countries and travel destinations like France, Italy, and Spain. The Clubhouse topped off the party with fun music and delicious homemade cupcakes!

Beechwood NeuroRehab

Woods

# Beechwood Hosts IBICA Conference

Beechwood NeuroRehab hosted 41 people for the International Brain Injury Clubhouse Association Conference in late September. This was the largest attendance ever for the international event. Ten members of clubhouses from around the country were awarded scholarships to attend the meetings and two clubhouse members were elected to serve on the IBICA governing board including Hadley Littell, who is a Beechwood NeuroRehab Clubhouse member.

Woods
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## Join us on SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018

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