

# HAND IN HAND News

*35 Years of Learning, Living, Exploring and Sharing - Together!*

## **An Anniversary Message from the CEO**

*Dear Friends and Community Partners,*

As we celebrate our 35th Anniversary, we must believe that our future will be as dynamic as our past. Since our inception in 1975, we have consistently and relentlessly attempted to remove the barriers that prevent people in need from having a better quality of life. Partners For Quality, Inc. and its subsidiaries: Allegheny Children's Initiative, Inc., Citizen Care, Inc., Exceptional Adventures and Partners For Quality Foundation have each approached their corporate mandates in an aggressive and professional manner that have resulted in the establishment of true community partnerships and a true community of interest, all directed towards helping people in need.

Even though we are all experiencing very difficult times, corporately we share great optimism for the future. We believe our Mission ... to support people by providing services that promote choice, personal satisfaction and the realization of their hopes and dreams ... will be the foundation for even more creative and better ways to connect people to their communities.

It is my pleasure to express our appreciation to the PFQ Boards of Directors, staff, community partners, countless volunteers and hundreds of generous donors for your unwavering support and dedication. Thank you for embracing our Mission in such significant and meaningful ways.

In closing, we invite you to join us as we end the year with a 35th Anniversary Celebration on December 2, 2010 at the LeMont Restaurant. Please watch your mail for more information.

With sincere appreciation,  
*Donald D. DiMichele*, CEO



## **VOLUNTEERS MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE**

This year is a very special milestone anniversary for volunteers at Partners For Quality! It's the perfect time to send our heartfelt gratitude for the talents, efforts, dedication and care to all of the volunteers who have helped Partners For Quality grow into one of the largest human service providers in Allegheny County – 35 years and running!

We take this opportunity to highlight all of our Boards of Directors, in particular, for their guidance and leadership. We also wish to thank the hundreds of

unnamed people who serve on the Agency's many Committees: Fashion Show, Fundraising, Human Rights, Special Intervention Review, Special Projects and Pharmacy as well as the countless individuals and groups who volunteer for our special events, the many people who volunteer their time directly with the people that we support and all of the people who volunteer for the Exceptional Adventures trips and dances. You support our Mission to help people across the Agency to realize their hopes and dreams. By touching lives, lifting spirits, offering a hand, sharing smiles and making a difference every day, you have been an essential part of the Partners For Quality Team for 35 years. Hearts that care make a world of difference! We thank you!

# ALLEGHENY CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE

## Grants Fund Pilot Project

Allegheny Children's Initiative recently received two grants, one from The University of Pittsburgh Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) and another from Staunton Farm Foundation to pilot the implementation of an evidence-based intervention called Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) at Allegheny Children's Initiative, Milestone Centers, Inc., and the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. The grants will enable ACI to train 20 clinical staff and supervisors. The funds will also cover the costs of training, equipment and data collection materials. This pilot project is part of an ongoing initiative to embed PCIT into various community sites where it is most needed. We have worked to organize a network of clinical and community sites who would like to offer PCIT services and to coordinate treatment among each other.

What is PCIT? PCIT is a behavioral family intervention for children two to seven years of age with disruptive behavior

disorders. PCIT has been identified as a best practice for physically abusive parents. Developed by Sheila Eyberg at the University of Florida, PCIT integrates concepts from social learning theory, traditional play therapy, and attachment theory to enhance the parent-child relationship, increase children's pro-social behaviors, and increase parents' behavior management skills.

Therapists use behavioral principles such as modeling, reinforcement, and selective attending in their coaching to shape the parents' behaviors. The use of live coaching and immediate feedback is key to PCIT. Therapists directly observe parents' behaviors and can modify them as they occur.

On behalf of the countless children and families who will benefit from the PCIT program, we extend our thanks to CTSI and the Staunton Farm Foundation for making this program possible through their generosity.

## EXCEPTIONAL ADVENTURES

### RETRO 70'S DANCE

More than 220 staff and guests attended the Retro 70's dance hosted by Exceptional Adventures on Friday, March 26 at Peters' Place Restaurant in Bridgeville, PA. Many of them dressed up in their Retro 70's attire and everyone enjoyed dancing to their favorite songs from the 1970's.

Special thanks to the following people for their donations of Chinese Auction items for the Exceptional Adventures events:

Ashley Campbell, Kathleen Dougherty, Terri Loop, Linda Pescho, Grace & Roy Rowland, Holly Shine, Sarah Shultz-Blonski and Maggie Zalewski.

For more information about Exceptional Adventures' dances, trips, and volunteer opportunities, please call: 412-446-0713.



*Ron Chiurazzi and Laura Zukauckas - Feelin Groovy!*

## PFQ NEWS BRIEFS

### HEALTHY PEOPLE / HEALTHY PLANET EXPO

– A HUGE SUCCESS!

Over 200 people attended PFQ's Healthy People / Healthy Planet expo held on Thursday, May 13, 2010 at the PFQ Building. The event, which was organized by the CCI Healthy Lifestyles Committee and the PFQ Green Team, was supported by Health America and Wells Fargo Insurance Services. Activities included: mini massages, yoga / relaxation sessions, blood pressure screenings, and tips on smoking cessation, food portions, recycling and eco-cleaning. Herb and vegetable seed packets were distributed to attendees to encourage home gardening.

Thanks to Health America, Wells Fargo, the PFQ Foundation and Renee Zialkowski, we raffled off prizes which were won by: Marcella Falconer, Rodshenna Hawkins, Michelle Reed, Marie Evangelista, Tom Jenkins and Jane Sadowski.

Special thanks to the Committee members, the CCI nurses, Grady Griffin, RN, and Renee Swasey, Certified Massage Therapist, for their time, energy and enthusiasm. We also thank Cindy King and all the CL Directors for their support. It was a great inaugural event and we look forward to a bigger, better event next year!

On behalf of the Healthy Lifestyles Committee and the PFQ Green Team, we extend our best wishes to all of our readers for a healthy and safe summer!

### MAILING LIST UPDATE

We are in the process of updating our mailing list database and would like to assure that we have accurate information. If you have changes to your name and / or mailing address, or would like to include your email address to receive announcements electronically, please inform your Coordinator or contact Marie Manzella at 412-446-0703 or via email: [mmanzella@pfq.org](mailto:mmanzella@pfq.org). Be assured that your information is confidential and will not be shared without your consent. Thank you!

# CITIZEN CARE

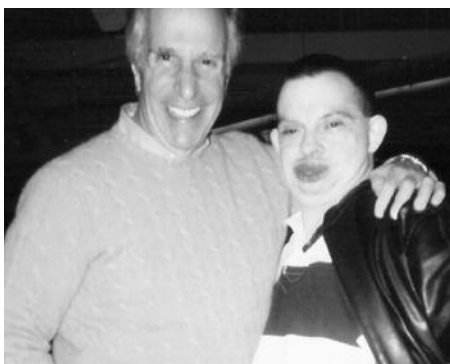
## Hope & Dreams Shared

### Spreading Holiday Cheer With a Little Help from Friends

This past holiday season presented many opportunities for people to get together and strengthen ties with others in their communities. One such opportunity happened for Donna, her housemates and her friends from the Lakeview Christian Church in South Fayette. Donna has been a member of the church for several years, and she has made many friends at the church. This year, Donna and her housemates Trina, Jackie and Shirley hosted an Open House holiday party and invited the church pastor and his wife. The date of the open house coincided with a special church event, so the pastor called and asked if some of Donna's friends from church could also drop in. Of course, Donna and her housemates said all were welcome. During the open house, family, friends and neighbors stopped by to socialize and share in the holiday spirit. The pastor, his wife and about 10 of Donna's friends from the church visited. For many of the church members, this was their first visit to Donna's home and their first experience in a community home setting. The guests complimented Donna and her housemates on their lovely and comfortable home. Small gifts and homemade baked goods were exchanged. Someone played the organ and led everyone in singing Christmas songs. The pastor blessed Donna, Trina, Jackie, Shirley and all of their guests. He then blessed the house. Since then, Donna has invited her housemates to come and attend Sunday services at the church, and they have all become involved in a few of the community service and social activities at the church.

### Brian meets "The Fonz"

If you know Brian Strager, you know that he is very fond of the character "Fonzi" or "The Fonz" from the 50's and 60's era TV sitcom "Happy Days." Brian loves the show and often imitates "The Fonz" by wearing a leather jacket to look like him. On



Henry Winkler "The Fonz" with Brian Strager. Heyyy!

January 23rd, Brian attended the World of Wheels car show and was able to meet Henry Winkler who played "The Fonz" on the TV show. Brian got an autograph and his picture taken with Mr. Winkler. Brian was very excited that he finally met one of his favorite TV characters.

## SURVIVING THE BLIZZARD OF 2010

February was a long, cold month for many people. It was especially difficult for the eight gentlemen that live in the homes located on McMichael Road in Carnegie. During the blizzard-like weather, power was lost in their homes for four days. As the temperature in the homes quickly dropped, it was clear that these gentlemen needed to find a place to go that was warm and safe. This was not an easy task, as these men have significant medical concerns, such as breathing treatments, feeding tubes, constant oxygen requirements, and psychiatric issues. Luckily, we have a long-standing relationship with the Holiday Inn in Moon Township. The Holiday Inn staff worked hard to accommodate all of the unique needs of the men. They provided a handicapped accessible room for showering, made room service available, and went out of their way to make sure everyone felt safe, warm and comfortable. All was not lost as it was SUPER BOWL SUNDAY and the men had the opportunity to watch the Super Bowl and enjoy room service. Citizen Care staff from the homes excelled! They showed their deep dedication to the gentlemen, making the men feel comfortable in their temporary home and worked very long hours. Citizen Care appreciates the Holiday Inn staff and the McMichael staff for their cooperation, which made a difficult time more bearable for all. Thank you!

## cleaning up the community



Jeff Aurila, John Sistik and Joe Keck

The people supported by Citizen Care who live in Greentree have just started their seventh consecutive season of being involved in community clean ups. The group was involved in its first clean up with The Friends of the Riverfront in March of 2004. In 2005, they started volunteering with Allegheny CleanWays; and, since that time, have partnered with several community groups to clean up the community including Pittsburgh Cares, REI, Allegheny County and Three Rivers Rowing to name a few. Although the group of volunteers is not always the same, there is a core group of people that makes it to the clean ups more often than not. The event that the volunteers are usually most excited about is the Tireless Project, a collaborative endeavor of several organizations to clean up the city's three rivers. Although cleaning up the community is tough work, there is often live music and food afterwards and plenty of opportunities to socialize with the other volunteers. The group usually participates in all of the

Tireless Clean up events and several dump clean ups throughout the year, usually seven to ten events each season. The group kicked off the seventh season by participating in a clean up on Negley Run Boulevard organized by the East Liberty Development Initiative. Before participating, the volunteers discussed the negative impacts that litter and dumping have on the environment as well as the people living in the community, and how addressing these issues can have an impact on larger environmental and social issues in the community. The volunteers from Citizen Care partnered with students from Carnegie Mellon University, Student Conservation Association and several other groups to remove over 200 bags of trash, two full dumpsters, two truckloads of scrap metal and 50 tires, as well as 10 smaller piles of trash left next to the curb. The clean up was a huge success and those who volunteered are excited to get involved in more clean ups this season. Since 2004, this group of volunteers from Greentree has volunteered over 800 hours toward cleaning up illegal dumping and litter in Allegheny County. In addition to clean ups, this particular group has been very active in the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's clean program, the East End Blitz and Open Hand Ministries along many other volunteer activities.

## A TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sandy Allison is a very patriotic woman and a talented foot artist. The subjects in her paintings and drawings are typically patriotic themes such as flags, statues, and sites in Washington, D.C. Sandy has also followed the presidential campaign and election of Barack Obama. Her goal was to go to Washington, D.C. hoping to meet the President and First Lady.

With assistance from her friend Lenny, Sandy had the opportunity to fulfill her goal to vacation at her favorite place. She spent two days in D.C. with her friend Michelle. Sandy enjoyed seeing the monuments, museums, and the

White House. She especially enjoyed riding on the subway and purchasing several D.C. souvenirs. Unfortunately, the First Family was not in Washington while Sandy was there.

Since arriving home, Sandy has written letters to President Obama and the First Lady. She is already planning another trip to Washington D.C. still hoping to meet them someday!



*Sandy Allison at the National Mall*

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

There is a proverb that states "A well-used door needs no oil in its hinges." That certainly is the case for the new front door at the Training and Outsourcing Center (TOC). The old door at the TOC made it especially difficult for people who use wheelchairs to enter and exit. Many of them had to depend on a staff person to open the door for them. "It was really hard to open the door and go inside by myself," said Bob Schafers, a long-time employee at the TOC. Thanks to the generosity of the Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust, automatic doors were installed at the Center in March. Now Bob says, "I can do it by myself!"

When the doors were installed, the staff watched from inside the building as the employees pushed the entry button outside, smiled proudly and entered the TOC on their own! The automatic door opener was the topic of conversation throughout the entire workday. Carmine Ruta, who also works at the TOC, said with a big grin on his face, "This is so cool. The door is easier for me ... now I can be independent at work with everything."

The new doors make it possible for all of the individuals who work at the TOC to enter the building without any assistance for the first time since the building opened in 2003.

We wish to extend our thanks to the **Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust** for their generous grant which was designated for the purchase of automatic doors, a box truck and automated mailing equipment for use at the TOC.



**Parkway West Rotary Sponsors**

*Spring Fling*

On Thursday, April 22nd, in celebration of "Earth Day," the Parkway West Rotary Club sponsored a Spring Fling Dance at the Crowne Plaza Hotel for the people supported by Partners For Quality / Citizen Care. The dance was great, complete with plenty of dancing, refreshments and good cheer. Music was provided by Tony and Donna DiVecchio of D.J. Donna's Music Express. Special thanks to Rotarian Mark Kennedy and the Crowne Plaza Hotel who did an outstanding job hosting the event. Kudos to Roxanne Buckels, President of the Parkway West Rotary, who danced with everyone all night long; to Rotary members Sam Duerr III, Fred Leichti, Norma Lofink, Marcy McKivitz and her son Christopher, for attending the dance, to all of the members who donated the delicious cookies or items for the Chinese Auction, and to Shop-N-Save / Kennedy for donating a sheet cake themed to perfection for Earth Day! Recognition is also due to the Montour High School Interact Club. Under the direction of their Coordinator, Mary Ahwesh, the students – George Beerhalter, Anthony Bombassaro, Chrissy DiClaudio, Tyler



Haas, Corrine Kefover, Kasey Kellems, Danielle Marzello, Lexi Ocvirk, Aaron Reed, Karla Salhoris, Jimmy Sciulli, Joe Victorelli, Rachel Zolkiewicz -- who donated snacks, assisted with the event and enjoyed socializing with the guests. A great time was had by all!

Montour High School Student Rachel Zolkiewicz with Jesse Lakes

## LEARNING / EMPLOYMENT / RETIREMENT SERVICES

Do you know about the **Learning / Employment / Retirement Services** – the nonresidential division of Citizen Care? It's the component that provides community-based services to approximately 200 adults who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. On a Monday-through-Friday basis from four locations in the community, people are supported in their involvement in activities of choice, realization of personal goals and participation in the life of the community. People who receive residential supports from CCI and other service providers, as well as people living at home with their natural families, enjoy a continuum of services, ranging from specific skill development to socialization, recreation, leisure activities, volunteer opportunities and / or employment.

The well-rounded schedule at each location is a combination of activities of preference, special events and special projects. Activities of preference are formal and informal in nature, with participation based on interest and choice. Special events are theme- and / or event-based, and special projects provide an opportunity for people to partner with and demonstrate reciprocity within their communities. Through regular involvement in community-based activities, people are experiencing a sense of community which goes beyond physical presence to active participation in the life of the community.

Each of the four programs within the Learning / Employment / Retirement Services Division of CCI - the Center for Community Supports, Center for Creative Opportunities, Training and Outsourcing Center and Senior Citizen Center - offers distinct types of services which are outcome-based and tailored to the interests and abilities of adults who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Hear more about each program and what the participants have to say about them in upcoming issues of the Hand-In-Hand Newsletter!

## PARTNERS FOR QUALITY FOUNDATION

### SEEKING RAFFLE PRIZES AND AUCTION ITEMS!

*Partners For Quality Foundation* is seeking raffle prizes and auction items for its fundraising events.....dining certificates, event tickets, gift certificates for services, sports items, use of condominiums, framed prints, children's items, golf items, gym memberships, holidays items.....gratefully accepted!



## Hats Off to....

**Allegent Community Federal Credit Union** for conducting their fourth annual Holiday Toy Drive for all the children who receive services through Allegheny Children's Initiative.

**Jeff and Peggy Karman** for their donation of Girl Scout cookies and magazines.

**Pam Croskey and Kohl's Department Store, Connie Gato, Franchesca Ervin, Ken Corey and Sam's Club, Al and Annette Malone, Mary Mitchell and Mary Ann Marks** all for their donations of miscellaneous items for the Chinese Auction baskets for Foundation events.

**Renee Trunick** for her donation of toys and books for the children who receive services through Allegheny Children's Initiative.

**Fran Sawyer and Bayer Corporation** for their donation of a large basket of healthcare products to be a part of the Silent Auction for PFQ's 19th Annual Charity Golf Classic coming up on June 21st.

**Bobbi Lasto** for her donation of women's clothing and other items in memory of Genevieve Owens.

# PARTNERS FOR QUALITY FOUNDATION

## EVENT UPDATE

### *11th Annual Heart of Caring Benefit*

#### **Auction and Luncheon – An Afternoon to Remember!**

The Heart of Caring Benefit Auction and Luncheon, which was held on Friday, February 5, 2010 at the Airport Doubletree Hotel, will be remembered for years to come because of the snowstorm that began that afternoon. The National Weather Service called the snowstorm “historic.” President Obama called it “snowmageddon.” We called it “close.”

Despite the storm warning, nearly 300 guests and volunteers turned out for a lively afternoon of networking, dining, and bidding! We send our thanks to our long-time Diamond Sponsor Lenny Shaw of L.S. Jewelers. We also wish to thank the members of the Special Projects Committee: Ken Corey, David Bigger, John Conte, Jim Esposito, Melinda Fulton, Connie Gato, David Goldman, Sandy Havern, Jeff Jeffers, Norma Lofink, Marcy McKivitz and Scott Yusavage. We extend our gratitude to: Sara Lockard, WISH 99.7, Mark and Lynda Johnson of Johnson Auction Service, Franchesca Ervin who once again coordinated and assembled the Chinese Auction, the students from the Montour High School Interact Club, Kohl’s A-Team, the staff at the Doubletree Hotel, PSAV Services, Krol Media, the PFQ staff, all of the volunteers, sponsors, donors and bidders.



*Lenny Shaw and Sara Lockard*



*Our greeters, Lisa Smith and Kathy Faupel*



*Kohl's A-Team*



*Amy Schafer and Roxanne Buckels*



*Connie Gato and Scott Yusavage*



*Ken Corey, Denise Duplechan and Dennis Tyra*



## *19th Annual Bob Pompeani Charity Golf Classic*

*Bob Pompeani, Honorary Chairman*

The 19th Annual Bob Pompeani Charity Golf Classic will be held on Monday, June 21 at Chartiers Country Club. The event begins at 9 AM with a shotgun start at 10:45 AM.

Thanks to the combined efforts of Bob Pompeani along with a dedicated volunteer committee and the PFQ staff, the tournament has become a premier outing that consistently sells out a few weeks prior to the event.

The Tournament Committee is currently seeking sponsors to help underwrite the costs associated with the outing. A variety of underwriting opportunities are available ranging from \$200 to \$7,000. A new level of sponsorship, which is only \$200, will provide smaller companies who want to support the Agency with a great opportunity to do just that! You can also participate by donating a prize or simply by making a tax-deductible donation.

For more information about becoming a sponsor, please visit our website at [www.pfq.org](http://www.pfq.org) to download an Entry Form or you may also contact the Foundation Office at 412-446-0702.

## **Pittsburgh Fashion Story – Hip, Hot, Happenin’**

The seventh edition of Pittsburgh Fashion Story will take place on Friday, September 10 at the trendy J. Verno Studio in Pittsburgh's historic South Side. The show has become one of the most anticipated events of the PFQ fall season, mixing an elegant cocktail reception with a stunning runway production of fashions for both men and women.

Pittsburgh Fashion Story will showcase amazing fall collections highlighting the latest trends and styles from a line up of some of the city's foremost boutiques.

Proceeds from the show are used to maintain an Emergency Fund for the children and families supported by PFQ / Allegheny Children's Initiative. Sponsorships are available starting at \$500. Tickets are \$75 per person through September 1. We expect a sold-out crowd! So, please don't delay in purchasing your tickets.

To make reservations or for more information, please call the Foundation Office at 412-446-0702.



# Many Thanks to Our Donors

Partners For Quality Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following contributors for their generous support. The following represents gifts received between December 1, 2009 and May 11, 2010. We sincerely thank each donor for helping to support the Mission of the Agency. If you find an error or omission in this listing, please accept our apology. Be assured we do appreciate your contribution despite the printing deadline. You will be recognized in the next edition.

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People have the opportunity to experience and fully participate in all aspects of life.

**MISSION**

Partners For Quality, Inc. supports people by providing services that promote choice, personal satisfaction and the realization of their hopes and dreams.

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The Hand-in-Hand Newsletter is published twice a year. Suggestions and comments should be directed to: **Mary A. Mitchell**, Partners For Quality Foundation, 250 Clever Road, McKees Rocks PA 15136, 412-446-0702.

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 Jeff Z. Jeffers  
 John F. Lamberson  
 Allison L. Levy  
 Dean R. Manna  
 Julie E. McGuire  
 Marcy McKivitz  
 Judy McMillin

Joseph A. Murray  
 Richard Nussbaum  
 Raymond J. Paulos  
 Frank E. Perry  
 James D. Plake  
 Timothy A. Taylor  
 Thomas W. Weaver  
 Ronald D. West

**Chief Executive Officer**  
 Donald D. DiMichele

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**~ Mark the Date ~**

**Monday – June 21, 2010**  
 19th Annual Bob Pompeani  
 Charity Golf Classic  
 Chartiers Country Club

**Friday – September 10, 2010**  
 7th Annual Pittsburgh Fashion Story  
 J. Verno Studio – Pittsburgh's  
 South Side

**Thursday – December 2, 2010**  
 PFQ'S 35th Anniversary  
 Celebration  
 LeMont Restaurant

For information on  
 participating in or volunteering  
 for any of these events,

**please phone**  
**412-446-0702**  
**or visit [www.pfq.org](http://www.pfq.org)**

**Thank you!**



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