



THE CENTER

SERVING PERSONS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION

VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 2

2nd Quarter 2008



Dear Friends,

Recently the family of a woman with mental retardation approached us for help. The woman, in her mid-50s, had lived with her parents her entire life. Her father had passed and now her mother was being placed in a nursing home. There would be no one to care for her. A brother had heard about LifeCare and contacted me about quickly setting something up for his sister. An attorney who is familiar with our program knew how to blend the LifeCare plan with the parents' wishes, set about creating the legal documents that became the basis of the woman's LifeCare plan. More information was secured from the family about the woman's medical, dental and therapy needs but more importantly, it included what made her life unique – what made her happy, what gave her joy. It went further, too, to include wishes made known through her mother's will such as being buried with the family and the funeral director's name.

Her siblings, who could not take the woman in, were relieved their sister would now have a place to go and that she would be looked after and cared for. This family was lucky. When their last parent passes, many persons with mental retardation have no family to create a LifeCare plan. Foundation for the Retarded offers this service free to current and former clients of The Center and at modest fees for non-clients. For more information, please contact me at 713-525-8482 or rvonmind@cri-usa.org. I'd be happy to send along printed material for you to review.



*LifeCare client
Shaundra Williams
and me.*

Sincerely,

Bob Von Minden

Volunteers are Super!

The Center held its annual volunteer appreciation event on April 21 at the Cadillac Bar. The following individuals were awarded for giving 100 hours in volunteer services to The Center.

Abear Elder
Lore Hunter Martin
Maggie Mottesheard
George Motz

Eleanor McKissick received the Lifetime Achievement Award for going above and beyond. Her volunteer efforts span many, many years.

Special Thanks to all!



SERVING PERSONS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

Admissions	713-525-8318
Adult Activity Center	713-525-8419
Momentum Industries	713-525-8303
<i>Fullfillment, Packaging, Mailing & Assembly</i>	
Caning	713-525-8453
Gingersnaps Etc.	713-525-8468
Donations	713-525-8484
Gifts In Kind	713-525-8431
Volunteer Opportunities	713-525-8431
Community Relations	713-525-8431
Willow River Farms	713-525-8300
Cullen Residence Hall	713-525-8400
Foundation for the Retarded	713-525-8484
LifeCare	713-525-8482

Derby Remembered

When long-time Center staffer Derby Hirst passed away in February, clients and friends were greatly saddened. Remarkably, the Redbud tree Derby planted while she worked here was in full bloom at the time of her death. We realized that Derby had planted yet another "seed" when we were notified she had left a generous bequest in her will. You will bloom in our hearts forever. Thank you, Derby.



ON YOUR MARK! THANK YOU HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION!



Photo by: Kim Coffman

The Houston Bar Association presented the 23rd John J. Eikenburg Law Week Fun Run on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at Sam Houston Park downtown with proceeds benefiting The Center. This year's event brought in over \$50,000 for our programs and services! The 8k course is certified, sanctioned by the USATF (USA Track & Field) and is an official Spring Series Race of the Houston Area Road Runners Association. It was timed and scored by ChampionChip Electronic Timing System and included a one-mile children's run and a non-competitive one-mile family walk. The awards, which are by age group and team categories, were framed hand-painted scenes made by clients of The Center. Center clients operated a water station on Allen Parkway and clients both at the Park and along the route cheered runners on. It was hot and muggy but a lot of fun!

ICE CREAM SUNDAY

This year's Ice Cream Sunday was held on April 27th at Autry Park adjacent to Cullen Residence Hall on our West Dallas campus. Rain threatened all morning but our ever-optimistic co-chairs said the show will go on! Good call on their part because families poured in by the hundreds, playing on the inflatables, visiting the petting zoo, climbing the rock wall and singing karaoke till we had to close! Huge thanks go out to volunteers from El Paso Corporation, National Charity League, Laurie Allen and Ann Shepherd; co-chairs Angie Hollaway, Jennifer Martinez and Enid Cleland; and, Major Underwriters Kristi and John Schiller.

Thanks to the many friends and family and supporters of The Center who helped us raise over \$50,000 for programs and services! We couldn't have done it without all of you!



Co-chairs Enid Cleland, Angie Hollaway and Jennifer Martinez.



The rockwall for kids and adults was a huge hit!



Teeny-tiny karaoke singer Ellie Bos in a très chic hamburger hat.

MOMENTUM INDUSTRIES

Let us work for you

Full Range Bulk Mail Services: Collating, folding, inserting, tabbing, postage and post office preparation.

Landscape Services: Building flower beds, gardens, ponds, mowing, edging, weeding and clearing beds and debris.

Call 713-525-8303

Gingersnaps, Etc. On the road!

EVERY SATURDAY From 8 a.m. to Noon

Midtown Market

T'afia Restaurant, Travis and Alabama

Urban Harvest Market

Eastside Street, between Alabama and Richmond

SEPTEMBER '08

26 **Nottingham Club**
700 N. Kirkwood

OCTOBER '08

11-12 **Katy Rice Festival** – Katy Texas

14 **Forest Club** (Members)
9950 Memorial Dr.

19-20 **Lakeside Country Club** (Members)
100 Wilcrest Dr.

22-23 **St. Martin's Episcopal Church**
San Felipe and Sage Road

27-29 **Memorial Drive Methodist Church**
12955 Memorial Dr.

NOVEMBER '08

2-3 **River Oaks Country Club** (Members)
1600 River Oaks Blvd.

8 **NovemberFest**
Willow River Farms – San Felipe, Texas

12-16 **Nutcracker Market**
Reliant Center

DECEMBER '08

1-3 **Houston Country Club** (Members)
1 Potomac Dr.

7 **Holy Rosary Church**
3617 Milam

9 **Braeburn Country Club** (Members)
8101 Bissonnet

WHOLE FOODS STORES

November and December



WHEN CLIENT SERVICES TURN SUPER FUN FOR EVERYONE!

SUPER!

April 27 Mardi Gras Cullen Style
 Mardi Gras colors were on display when Best Buddies from the University of St. Thomas visited Cullen to make this carnival celebration special for Cullen residents. The Best Buddies did lots of face painting along with other fun activities that filled the day.



APRIL 27

May 06 ATEs vs. AAC Basketball Game
 The game was held outside in front on the West Dallas campus. Clients cheered on their teams of staff from the Adult Training and Employment Services department and the Adult Activity Center.



MAY 06



May 30 Cullen Star Search
 A talent show took place in the lobby of Cullen Residence Hall. Residents showcased a variety of talents which included singing, dancing and more!

May 31 WRF Block Party
 Willow River Farms hosted a friendly gathering. Neighbors from Brookwood Community Center and The Center's Cullen Residence Hall attended.



June 19 West Houston Church of Christ Works with Smiles
 A vibrant and ready-to-work youth group from West Houston Church of Christ volunteered at The Center. They helped out in the ATEs' work center and played bingo with our residents at Young at Heart.



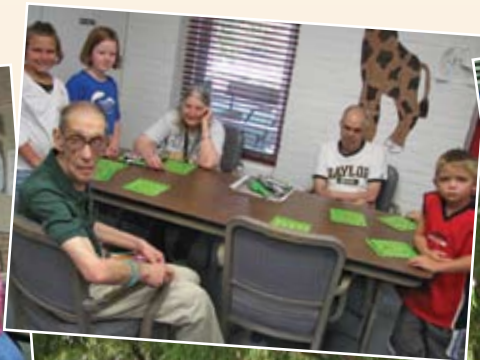
MAY 30

MAY 31



FUN!

JUNE 19



NEW WAY TO GIVE

We've made it easier to make a contribution to The Center or to make your special event reservation. A new dropdown menu lets you choose the specific program, project or party you'd like to give to. It even gives you the option to let us decide!

www.TheCenterHouston.org

WANT ADS

TEACHERS OR ASSISTANTS

In search of loving sunday school, religious school and early elementary school teachers or assistants to advise our staff about games and activities that might be adapted for use by persons with mental retardation. By phone, by email or in person, we're looking for some sweethearts who can help us keep our growing population stimulated, engaged and happy. Contact Vanessa Sims 713-525-8325.

NEW AND USED BOARD GAMES

For young ages. Put your Candy-Land or Mousetrap back into circulation for our clients. Also looking for new or used Lincoln Logs and Legos — lots and lots of Legos — all sizes, all colors. Wooden puzzles with big pieces would be greatly appreciated and pegboard games where pegs are matched to the color of the hole would be wonderful tools to teach colors and hand/eye coordination. Contact Vanessa Sims 713-525-8325

ALWAYS GENEROUS CHI OMEGA

Board member and Chi Omega alum Joni Fichter presents a check for \$15,000 to The Center's Board of Governor's president Jack Manning. Chi Omega – thank you!

You are terrific!



RESIDENTS OF JEWISH FAITH HAVE A NEW FRIEND!



(l to r) Foundation for the Retarded's president David Baldwin and executive director Debra Collins, Houston Jewish Community Foundation's executive director Roberta Herman and director planning and allocations Barb Bratter.

Foundation for the Retarded president David Baldwin accepted a check for \$2,500 from the Houston Jewish Community Foundation. The funds were secured on behalf of clients of the Jewish faith who reside at The Center.

We are most grateful for this first-time grant and hope it is the beginning of a long-time friendship with the Houston Jewish Community Foundation.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FOUNDATION FOR THE RETARDED AND THE CENTER MARCH 16 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008

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**Saturday, November 8, 2008
Willow River Farms**

Unique new sponsorship opportunities!
All new bike route!

www.MetricCenturyNovemberFest.org

Volunteers needed for set up on Friday, November 7
and at the event on Saturday.

Call Cindy at 713-525-8484 or send her an email
at crodriguez@cri-usa.org.

SUPPORT THE CENTER WHILE YOU SHOP!

Thanks to all of you who shop at Kroger and use your Kroger Plus Card. They have changed the system a little to help them sort through contributions more easily and ensure prompt delivery of our contribution checks! Simply clip the barcode provided here and present it to your Kroger cashier upon checkout. If you forget to clip it, go to www.krogerneighbortoneighbor.com, search for us under Foundation for the Retarded and print the barcode. A one-time visit is all it takes and you're back in the business of shopping for The Center!

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