



We Change Lives

# Thoughts Notes

Center for Social Change

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - WINTER—2007

## Ali's Christmas Gift to CSC

"Your job is so difficult, yet you continue to do your work, splendidly", remarked Ibrahim Turek, father of Ali, speaking to the management and staff of CSC, two days prior to Christmas this year.

Ali's parents are aging and were initially, extremely worried about Ali's well being. The obvious question was – What would happen to Ali after their passing? They are quite contented and happy now.

"It was truly earth shattering to learn that your child was born autistic," recounted Sevian Turek, Ali's mother. How does one respond? How does one cope with the realization that this long, arduous journey with one's only child is going to be so capricious? These were some of the pressing questions which weighed like a ton of bricks over the head of the Tureks, 28 years ago.

Ibrahim Turek reminiscing, mentioned, "It is very difficult, very painful, while you are showering love on your child, there is no reciprocal gesture."

Helplessness swiftly gave way to acceptance, and acceptance to positive and proactive thinking. After the age of 8, Ali's seizures became more frequent and slowly his vocabulary level slowly dropped. Ali went to several schools which suited his condition but he was most happy in Contemporary school. Though Ali liked the school, Sevian bore the brunt each time Ali was found not cooperating with the staff. The usual plan was isolation which Sevian was dead against. So, she gave up everything and was constantly on a stand by mode, rushing to school each time a call came for isolation.

Ali's best friend is his mother and both were progressively able to share and communicate effectively what was expected from each other. Ali was integrated into CSC's residential and supported employment programs and to his credit has overcome his inhibitions with the help from the staff of CSC to be a contributing member of society. Today Ali works at the local Shoppers store. and is liked by his peers there. Ali loves to spend his wages on video games and other electronic gadgets.



CSC received a generous donation from the parent's of Ali, one of our individuals

# editorial

For some of CSC individuals in various programs, holiday time is a chance to visit their families' home for a short period of time to celebrate. For many of them, however, holiday time is very much like the rest of the year. They spend it in their community homes with their caretakers. This may sound like a real "downer," but we must remember that the houses in which they live in the community are their real homes. This is where they live day in and day out. They have a family here. Their housemates have become brothers and sisters and the caretakers their surrogate parents and beloved members of their family.



The fun of the holiday season is into their homes by their the residents en- other to

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takers always help them in the house where they colors and blinking lights. Gifts are an important part of the holiday experience for them and they have many.

Our individuals love visitors at holiday time. They love having volunteers visit them. When you stop by one of their homes all of them will find their way to the living area to greet you. They will be uniformly smiling and will try to shake your hand. If you bring gifts to them, you will bring the house down with delight.

If you cannot do a visit- going to be out of town, let them still know that you care about them. You volunteer to be a part of their lives. Send a contribution to Center for Social Change this **NEW YEAR** so that you can continue to see the great things that they can achieve in their lives. They are our extended family and we are theirs. Love is the greatest gift of all, so put Center for Social Change on your **New Year's** to do list and send a bit of love our way.

brought staff. All courage each get excited by sharing their own enthusiasm. The care- to decorate a Christmas tree at a bright spot congregate and become mesmerized by the sparkling colors and blinking lights. Gifts are an important part of the holiday experience for them and they have many.

## ***My Buddy Robert***



*"Hi Buddy," is the greeting you get whenever you walk into the Adult Medical Day facility. Robert's infectious smile, energy and spirits lifts you up right away. Robert, a participant at the Adult Medical Day facility is a sheer motivator. Whether it is painting, singing or decorating the Christmas tree Robert is an inspiration to not only the people surrounding him but us too.*

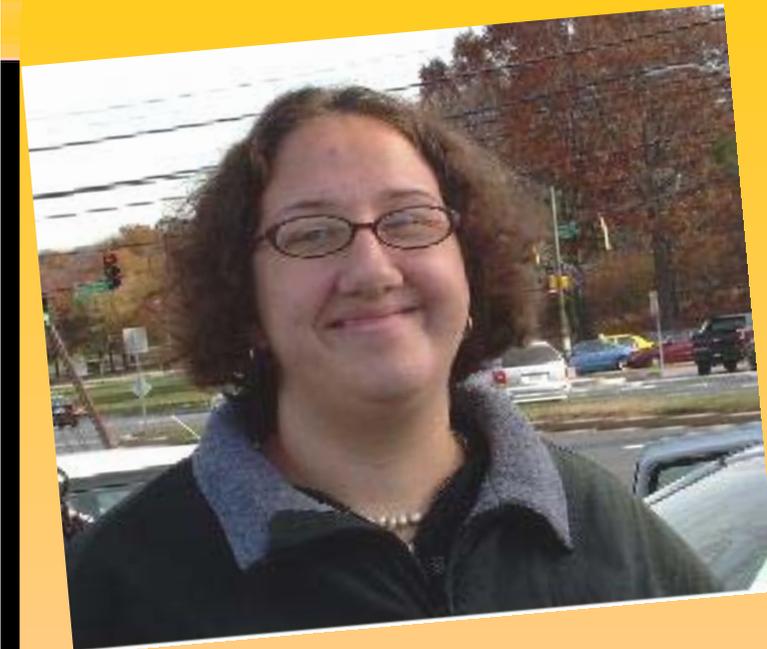
## ***The Wise Cathy***



*Cathy is just the opposite of Robert. Quiet and composed. Cathy's smile says it all. "Been there. Seen it all" Cathy is one of our seniors at CSC and while she prefers to keep a low profile, her body language communicates effectively. To a trouble maker, it means. "Get a life guys"*

# programs

## Supported Employment



Meet  
Michelle Bush  
A  
Real  
Go - Getter

After completing a 14 week VSP course in a nearby hospital, Michelle Bush is all set today to work and serve her peers. Michelle completed this exhaustive course while working at the Levendale Senior Center.

Michelle's pleasing personality makes her break the ice immediately with not only her peers but the people she lends a hand to help. Soft spoken and quite eloquent Michelle has what we call "Charisma."

Michelle loves indoor recreation like Bingo and helps others in revving up the excitement each time she calls a number out. They say chivalry is the domain of the male. Michelle, a kind Samaritan brushes aside this notion as she is the first to help other individuals off and on buses. Michelle is aware of her responsibilities and is always given charge to play the role of an attendant to seniors, serving them food and ensuring that they eat.

**Sandra Mayes** is a gutsy no-nonsense gal with a steely determination to do her best at whatever she so chooses to do. Tenacious and bright, Sandra has been working at McDonalds, Catonsville for the past one year. "I work Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays," says Sandra. Sandra keeps the place spank-ing clean, and that is the first thing you notice when you meet. Sandra's boss, Wayne, who is also the Manager, nods in agreement. "Sandra is a bundle of joy and comes on time everyday," said Wayne. "Besides she is very respectful," he added.

Sandra had a great Christmas and wants to buy clothes and music CD's. Her favorite artist "**USHER**"



# from our homes

## Residential Program for adults



Robert despite suffering head trauma after a devastating automobile accident continues to draw attention to himself.

He loves reaching out to people, patting them on their shoulders and then quickly moves on. What Business executives would call “One darn good networking guy” Robert till recently was the proud business owner of R & M Flowers, which unfortunately he had to give up due to his medical condition. Robert, the eternal charmer loved delivering flowers to his clients doorsteps....you got it. For that extra tip - of course. Robert is part of the CSC family and loves staying in a community home operated by CSC

## Residential Program for children

Denzel was the product of a broken home and repeated physical abuse. He was removed from his only familiar surroundings and subjected to living in various foster homes over several years. By the time he came to live with CSC, Denzel was suicidal, his temperament was explosive, and he was in need of constant supervision so he would not cause harm to himself or others.

Each day, CSC and its caring staff provided Denzel with a stable environment, and gave him the attention and affection any child deserves.

As days and months went by, the anger and hurt that Denzel felt slowly subsided, and Denzel learned to be friendly with his housemates and staff.

Today, Denzel is better adjusted. He plays football, is doing well in school – getting “A” grades, enjoys life, and wants to be a productive member of society.

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