

Reflections

IN PROGRESS

CENTER FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

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Vacation in Bethany Beach!

Despite this summer's hurricane which hit our area, two groups of individuals in CSC's residential program recently enjoyed two sun-filled weeks of Bethany Beach vacation with hardly any interruption.

After significant preparation by staff, all was made ready for each of the two groups of approximately 11 individuals to leave for their particular week long trip. The first group left on the Saturday prior to the hurricane and, to be safe, left one day early to beat the storm home. The second group, originally scheduled to leave on Saturday, waited until the storm had passed and they, too, headed out for their special time at the ocean.



Cassandra, Audrey, and Linda create swirl art while Nathan looks on.

Both weeks were filled with activities. Singing karaoke with the Rod Stewart look-alike was a big hit, as was driving the bumper cars at the boardwalk. Both groups of vacationers made it to all three area boardwalks – Ocean City, Bethany, and Rehobeth – and all made sure that they had plenty of time for shopping at the outlet stores. Most agreed that their steamed crab feast featured the best food of their vacation, and all agreed that their trips were too short and that plans needed to be started now for next year's trips.



Fred and Larry demonstrate their Guitar Hero prowess on the Boardwalk.

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Janet, Rebecca (standing) and Wyndella prepare for the sale to start.

Community Wide YARD SALE



On a beautiful June Saturday, with perfect temperature for visiting neighbors, the Fieldstone Community held its annual community-wide yard sale. Many homes became the locations for individual yard sales which, collectively, gave many streets a carnival-like activity. As active participants in their community, Wyndella, Rebecca, and Janet joined in the fun with a table filled with collectables

and knick-knacks that they offered for sale. A DVD player, make-up kit, massaging study-pillow, hummingbird feeder, and many more items – all attracted a steady flow of neighbors to the ladies’ table. All the moneys collected were kept by the ladies, and they were already busy planning how they could spend their profits. Each of them looks forward to next year’s sale.

ADVOCACY

DISABILITY EXPO AT TIMONIUM FAIRGROUNDS

Taking advantage of the resources available to them, a number of individuals supported by CSC’s Employment Services program spent their day at the recent Disability Expo which was held at the Timonium Fair Grounds. This annual event brings together a wide range of businesses, providers, and governmental entities, each of whom provided opportunities for visitors to enhance their knowledge about the latest and greatest products, services, technology and resources available for those with disabilities. Special activities included free wheelchair repair, the

Employ-ABLE Disability Career Fair, visits with local agencies and support groups, and Exhibitors who shared their knowledge and expertise about their equipment/supplies. The group from CSC may have come empty-handed, but each left with



as many vendor give-aways as they could carry. Most of the group had lunch at the Expo, and left at the end of the day only after learning much about the programs and products that they could take advantage of if they wished.

Sandeep (staff), Felisa, Amber, and Quintin visit Disability Expo vendors.

Ocean City Vacation

Several weeks ago, Byron and Rodney, along with staff members Reginald and Bukola, took advantage of the summer-like weather by visiting Ocean City for the weekend. Arriving Friday afternoon, they checked into the ocean-front room of their hotel, from where they ventured out for two and a half days of activities and fun. They enjoyed meals out each day, updated their summer wardrobes at the many stores they visited, and, of course, joined the other tourists for people-watching on the Boardwalk. And, almost certainly, the highlight of the vacation was their visit to the vintage car rally. By the next day after they had returned, staff had prepared personalized photo albums for both Byron and Rodney, and the pictures clearly attested to the wonderful time that they both had “down the Ocean”.



Byron and Rodney enjoy the magic to be found on their Ocean City vacation.

INDEPENDENCE

A Day at the Park

Hoping to see their home team favorites as champions, a number of individuals supported by CSC’s Residential Program traveled to a recent Orioles/Toronto Blue Jays ball game. Relaxing in the sunshine, enjoying hot dogs and sodas, and cheering their team on to victory filled the afternoon at the ballpark for these diehard fans. It was a close contest for most of the game, until a huge home run by the Jays spelled defeat for the Orioles. Despite the loss, all who attended understood that we can’t be winners all the time, and they look forward to a return visit to the stadium in the near future.



Rick, George, and Horace join the crowd to cheer their home-town Orioles on to a victory.



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LEARNING

Service Learning Activities

at Howard Community College



Asma N. and Sabita M. (right), Howard Community College students, volunteer to teach individuals new skills.

Center for Social Change values partnerships with the community that can assist us in providing the individuals we support the skills they need to live healthy, safe and valued lives. To that end, CSC has partnered with the Howard Community College, and with those students who are required to fulfill service learning activities in the community as part of their curriculums.

Recently, a group of bright young students, Sabita M., Asma N., Caroline W. and Sharon S. have begun performing their service learning credit hours by volunteering their time in CSC's Supported Employment day program. The students have

begun to create and conduct various skill development and enhancement workshops for the individuals in the program. These volunteers have spent time with our day program staff and participants to determine their particular development needs and the first workshops are scheduled to take place in late September 2011. A wide variety of topics will be covered to include writing, reading skills, personal hygiene and preventative medical care, healthy living and healthy eating.

CSC is excited about this effort and we look forward to the contributions of our volunteer team members.