

For Immediate Release:

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MR Awareness Month

In March across the nation, organizations such as TCV MH/MR, Inc. which are devoted to serving individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities, celebrate MR Awareness month. Their goal is to raise public awareness of the many abilities people who have been diagnosed with mental retardation possess.

Vera, who lives on a residential facility operated by TCV MH/MR Inc. is a keen example. Vera, who recently celebrated her 83rd birthday, has been supported by the agency since 1976. She enjoys singing, socializing with her friends, going to the mall and eating out. Everyone who knows Vera enjoys her beautiful smile, sense of humor and gentle spirit.

In September, Vera was hospitalized for what was to be a routine procedure. It ended up being anything but routine. She had a reaction to the preparation for the procedure, was admitted to the ICU and soon needed to be put on a ventilator. TCV staff was told by the doctors that due to her condition, previous health issues and her age, there was very little chance for a recovery. This was devastating news to everyone who knows her. TCV staff was by Vera's side every day, giving her love and encouragement.

Vera proved to have a strong will to live. She faced many struggles, but after a month, she recovered enough to be transferred to a nursing home for rehabilitation. Vera returned home in December. She continues to surprise everyone, even her doctor, with her recovery. She is an amazing woman who offers each of us a lesson in courage and preservice.

During March, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, get acquainted with someone, like Vera, who has a developmental disability. You'll learn that everyone has something to offer.

Established in 1970, Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. is a private, non-profit agency which strives to meet the needs of the community in mental health counseling and treatment; mental retardation therapy and activities and drug and alcohol treatment and intervention for families, individuals, children and adolescents. Please call 412-351-0222 x420 for more information about the individuals served and services offered by TCV MH/MR, Inc.

