



# Turtle Creek Valley News



## Community Link's Campers

~Cindy Cwiklik

It happens three times per year! No matter what kind of weather; rain, snow, hot or cold; the Community Link Program's Camping Trips are enjoyed by all who attend.

Community Link sponsors vacation/respice get-a-ways every year in the spring and fall in three day/two night sessions so that all MR consumers are afforded the opportunity to attend.

Raccoon Creek State Park offers very modern cabins that are equipped with heat, running water and full kitchen amenities. (This is by no means "roughing it") Each cabin can sleep six to eight campers and staff are available to assist with meal preparation, activity participation such as hiking, wood gathering for a cozy evening fire, hayrides, flower planting, fishing and other seasonal activities.

The third trip offered to the individuals occurs in late August at Camp Kon-O-Kwee, which is operated by the YMCA. Located near Zelienople, this camping trip allows for 30 to 40 campers who are housed in a beautiful lodge setting with a separate eat-in dining hall. YMCA staff coordinate the schedule of activities.

Some of our folks participate in all three camping trips annually and some prefer a smaller group atmosphere at Raccoon Creek State Park rather than the larger group at Camp Kon-O-Kwee.

The Community Link Program is always looking for volunteers to assist with these trips and for any donations of camping gear for the Raccoon trips. For further information on Camping with Community Link, please contact: **Cindy Cwiklik**, Community Link Coordinator at (412) 823-0600 x 104.



## Food Drive

Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. is sponsoring a Thanksgiving food drive to benefit the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The food bank works with over 350 member agencies located throughout the eleven county region of SW Pennsylvania. Member agencies include smaller county-wide food banks, MH/MR drop-in centers, drug rehabilitation centers, soup kitchens, daycare centers for both senior citizens and children, personal-care homes, homeless shelters, shelters for battered women and their children, Home Delivered Meals Programs (Meals on Wheels) for the elderly, and after-school programs for youth. Please look for the boxes at all of the sites throughout the Agency. All canned goods and non-perishable items will be collected on November 17<sup>th</sup>! If you would like further information on how to donate to the food drive call 412-351-0222 x417.

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Can you guess what the center vertical pole is?

- a.) Drain pipes
- b.) Fire Escape
- c.) Protection box for phone lines

answer on page 3

## Kaufmann's Charity Shopping Benefit

Thank you to all that participated in the Kaufmann's Charity Benefit Day at the new store in the Waterfront. This was a great way to support TCV and get a sneak preview of the store before it's official grand opening. Turtle Creek Valley was able to sell 275 tickets! The \$1375 raised will be used to benefit the various programs at TCV. Thank you to **Community Care Behavioral Health** who purchased 30 tickets. Congratulations to **Joni Zezza**, 723 Braddock staff member who won the \$50 gift certificate to Kaufmann's for selling the most tickets (32)! Thank you to all that participated in the great fundraiser.



Ameriserv Foursome



CCBHO Foursome



Hometown Rx Foursome



Highmark Foursome

## 2003 Toward a Brighter Future Golf Outing

The Turtle Creek Valley Toward a Brighter Future Golf Benefit was held on September 9, 2003 at Churchill Valley Country Club. The golfers experienced a beautiful, sunny day at a new golfing location!

Churchill Valley Country Club proved to be a fantastic course with exceptional food! Golfers feasted on a gourmet cook out lunch before the shotgun start, and a scrumptious dinner after a day of golf. The golfers had a great time, even though no one won the 2004 Chrysler Sebring Convertible donated by Larry Antannuci at Pleasant Hills Chrysler Jeep! This year's speaker was Gregory Gibson Kenney who is a professionally trained actor and founder of *Educate Us Productions*. Mr. Kenney presents historical figures in a theatrical setting to portray an individual's life; trials, goals, triumphs and achievements.

Almost \$9,000 was raised to help benefit our consumers. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's outing a success, especially National City who was our Platinum Sponsor!



Gregory Gibson Kenney

### Committee Members

Steve Zmigrosky  
Janet Carroll  
Olivia Zitelli  
Judith Stevenson  
Kimberly Mroziak

### Volunteers

Linda Travisano  
Mimi Silinski  
Pat Ogilvie  
Joleen Chiaverini  
Michelle Thomas  
Judy Monahan Grystar



WPIC Foursome

**Thank you to our sponsors who helped to make our golf outing a success!**

### Platinum Sponsor Level - \$2500

National City

### Silver Sponsor Level - \$1000

Community Care Behavioral Health  
Highmark  
Pfizer  
South Hills Health System  
UPMC Braddock – Heritage  
Health Fdn.

### Table Sponsors - \$350

Tower Associates  
AstraZeneca

### Hole Sponsors - \$125

Butler Woodcrafters  
Hometown Pharmacy – In Homestead Shop N' Save  
Office Depot  
Malin, Berquist and Company, LLP  
Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic

### Skill Prize Sponsor - \$350

Qualifacts Systems

### Other participants

Options in Graphics – Golf prizes  
Pleasant Hills Chrysler Jeep – Hole in One Sponsor  
Prepaid Legal Services  
Labriola Neighbors, LLP  
Mylan Labs  
Century III Chevrolet  
Frank B. Fuhrer Wholesale  
Snyders of Berlin  
Pittsburgh Pirates  
Dick's Sporting Goods  
Schindler Elevator  
West Coast Video  
Pittsburgh Public Theater  
Gateway Clipper Fleet  
Gregory Godels  
Arlene Shanks  
Patty Levandowski



Rx 2 Foursome



TCV Foursome



UPMC Braddock Foursome



WTC Foursome



## “New Beginnings” Open House

The TCV “New Beginnings” Adult Training Facility at the St. Robert Bellarmine School in North Versailles (formerly the 804 Braddock ATF) welcomed the community to an open house on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was an excellent opportunity to show everyone how smoothly

the transition to the new site has been for both the individuals and staff. The new site is perfectly suited for the needs of the individuals. Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. added a ramp to the building to make it accessible from the outside and a bathroom which accommodates individuals with physical challenges to one of the group rooms.

Gail Burner, MR Services Director, believes that everyone has been enjoying

the spaciousness of New Beginnings. They have also been able to enjoy the beautiful Fall weather by sitting outside and taking walks around the grounds.



The New Beginnings ATF is in a perfect location! Stores, banks and recreational activities are just minutes away for all that attend the programming at TCV. Hopefully everyone was able to go see the new site!



## Welcome to new employees!

Augustina Adekanye - CHI MR Main St.  
David Becinski - CHI MR Main St.  
Mary Ann Bland - SV COG RC  
Paige Hartranft - CRRS HH  
Dwight Hill - CRRS HH  
Karen Holt - Munhall Apartments  
Thomas Lee - HH Partial  
Larry Mariani - 723 Maintenance  
Anita Gunkle - 723 Health Information  
Gerald McClendon - CRRS HH  
Karen Moeller - SV COG OP  
Mary Jo Napolitano - St. Robert's  
Suann Ninimaker - SV COG PSR  
Jason Pingor - 723 Maintenance  
Carol Roebuck - SV COG PSR  
Alisa Scott - CRRS Rankin  
Stephanie Simpson - CRRS Rankin  
Kathy Tagaloe - St. Robert's  
Margaret Williams - CHI MR Crestview  
Jennifer Wojtczak - SV COG Prevention



## Goodbye and Good luck!

Cora Addicott - 723 BSU  
Cat Bruno - 723 Maintenance  
Jennifer Cheeseman - SV COG OP  
Edward DeBruce - CRRS Next Step  
Brad-Leigh Gaines - CRRS Rankin  
Kerri Haas - CRRS Rankin  
Cecelia Hartzfeld - 723 Fiscal  
Christine Kuniak - Homestead EP  
Laurie Barnett Levine - 723 BSU  
Linda Mallick - TC OP  
Kevin Maxwell - SV COG RC  
Claudia Metts-Mihoces - CHI MR Brinton  
Diane Olsavsky - CRRS HH  
Michele Rickard - CRRS Rankin  
Douglas Risley - SV COG ATF  
Dennis Robinson - SV COG OP  
Matthew Roper - CRRS Next Step  
Tracy Schob - 723 Fiscal  
Theodore Schleifer - CRRS Rankin  
Erin Seeley - SV COG Family

## Qualifacts Conversion

Congratulations to all of the Turtle Creek Valley staff members who were involved in the development and “go live” process for Phase I of the clinical system, Qualifacts. The staff put their best effort into making it a smooth transition, and continue to work hard to utilize the new system through the kinks that arise. Qualifacts will provide an electronic charting system and will automatically bill for services. Thank you to **Martha Zucco** and all of those who worked so diligently to make the new system come to fruition!

## Waterfront 5-K Run & Walk

Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. is proud to be one of the supporters of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Waterfront 5K – Run and Walk on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9AM. All proceeds benefit the ALS foundation and the Homestead and West Homestead Police Forces. Pre-registration ends Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>! The price for pre-registration is \$10 for walkers or \$12 for runners. Participants may pick up their packets and register at 8AM at Sandcastle. Those who did not pre-register can also participate at \$10 for walkers and \$15 for runners. For additional information please call Denise Spang from Homestead Borough’s Weed and Seed at 412-462-7272. Checks can be made payable to Homestead Borough Weed and Seed Program.

## Mental Health Awareness Concert

~Alby Gates

The Mental Health Awareness Concert 2003 was hours filled with talent and inspiration to recover. This year we had three auditions for talent that was advertised city wide. From those auditions, 31 acts were developed. The themes for this year’s awareness concert were Perseverance, Recovery and Wellness and Keeping on Track. All of the acts that were performed dealt with the three themes. Out of the 38 performers, 13 were from TCV MH/MR, Inc. Thanks to all the agencies and individuals who helped to make this year’s concert a big success.



## MR Residential Bowlers

~Jeannie Pingor

The annual MR Residential Bowling Banquet was held on August 31, 2003 at Loew's Theater at the Waterfront. Sharon, who heads the bowling committee, organized an afternoon of enjoyment for all. Upon arriving at the theater, the bowlers were escorted to the banquet hall for a fabulous dinner of Prime Rib or Stuffed Flounder. During dinner bowling awards were presented. Kathy was awarded the Bowling Belt for the highest average. After dinner everyone was treated to the movie of their choice.

## Resource Coordination News

~Robin Brown

### County Audit

Resource Coordination is pleased to announce that the County audit resulted in positive feedback. Supervisors, **Nancy Folino** and **Brian Johns**, would like to thank the R.C.'s for a job well done and hope the efforts put forth will continue into the oncoming year. Brian Johns stated that he expected great results from a team that utilizes the tools and training available, communicates and supports each other to great lengths. He credits their efficiency to consumer feedback and weekly team meetings.

### Staff Openings

Resource Coordination has an opening for a Child & Adolescent Resource Coordination Case Manager. The department was saddened by the departure of **Dennis Robinson**. Dennis has decided to pursue his musical aspirations that will take him all the way to New York City. We wish him the best of luck and hope to see him on the Billboard charts someday.

Please contact Brian Johns (412) 461-1004 or forward your resume to Resource Coordination to Brian's attention.

### Jackie Halsaver

Jackie is the Resource Coordination secretary and has been on Medical Leave. She is feeling better although has not fully recovered. Resource Coordination has asked that you keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

## How Can the ATF Help Your Business?

The TCV "New Beginnings" ATF offers a wide range of services to benefit individuals. There are currently 29 adults with varying levels of mental retardation that are enrolled in the program. The goals of the program are to learn daily living activities, pre-vocational and vocational skills and academics, social skills and community integration skills.

The individuals work on-site at paid work which includes shredding documents, assembling, labeling and packaging, mailing and inserting. The staff of the ATF are always looking for work for the individuals. The work is always done accurately and quickly.

Participants of the program may go on to employment in the community. Places of employment include: fast food establishments, cinemas, housekeeping, lawn care and cleaning vehicles.

*If you are an individual or business that have work to be done and could benefit from the work the ATF offers, please call **Dave Chara at 412-823-0600, ext. 112.***



## Life Skills Level I Awards & Recognition

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, the summer program component of Life Skills concluded with an awards ceremony that recognized student participants, counselors and Big Brothers Big Sisters adult mentors on the Gateway Clipper Party Liner. The Life Skills program provides children with refusal skills regarding alcohol, tobacco and other drugs through classes on peer pressure and decision making, while changing attitudes and behaviors.

The night consisted of an inspirational dance by Sheila King, speakers from the various program sites, and a keynote speech from Michael C. Haines. Mr. Haines grew up in the suburbs east of Pittsburgh, graduated with a BS in Business Administration from Duquesne University, and masters in Business Administration from Xavier University. He is also a district sales manager for Johnson's largest pharmaceutical company, Ortho Biotech-Johnson. Mr. Haines gave an inspirational youth message on the theme of "Working Hard Now and Playing Later" to the 200+ children and families who attended the ceremony.

**Rick Williams**, project coordinator believes that the awards ceremony gave "the attendees an opportunity to gain information about our youth prevention strategy and how the parents can take an active role in their child's participation in our community programs in the Tri-Boro area."

Thank you to all collaborators and committee that made this program a success!





**Can you guess what the center vertical pole is?** (from page 1)

answer - b.) Fire Escape

**Jack Fouts** demonstrates the usage of the new fire escape at our South Side site

## Risk Management Committee

The Risk Management Committee has been working very hard the past few months to make sure that the safety of the Agency is being met. They are planning the Bloodborne Pathogens Training being held at the COG.

They also held their last meeting at the South Side to take a tour of the site, and see the new fire escape. The next meeting will be held at 723 Braddock on December 17 at 3 PM. If anyone is interested in being a member of the committee, please call Pat Ogilvie at x406.

## Bloodborne Pathogens Training

**When** - Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM  
Monday, Dec. 8 from 10-12 noon and 2-4 PM

**Where** - SV COG 1st Floor Conference Room

**Required Annually by OSHA** for all employees at Residential Sites, BSU, ICM, RC/CM, Supportive Housing, Hospital Liaisons, Crisis Team, Aides, D&A Partial Staff, Housekeeping & Maintenance, MH/MR Rehabilitation, PSR & Evening Partial Staff, ATF Staff, Outpatient Nurses, Special Services and anybody who thinks they could possibly come in contact with any infectious disease during work. Please R.S.V.P. to Jean Miller at x 407.

## Day of Caring

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual United Way Day of Caring by volunteering to clean up the garbage-ridden, overgrown lot to create a parklet with plants and a picnic table for the residents who live in the collaborative ACTION-Housing, TCV MH/MR apartments above the 723 Braddock offices. Turtle Creek Valley maintenance secretary, **Cat Bruno** worked with the United Way and ACTION-Housing to handle preparations for the renovations. Maintenance staff, **Fred Mintus, Jason Pingor, Joe Sipior** and **Tony Klimko** worked very hard throughout the day alongside board members and volunteers from the United Way, Giant Eagle and Lowe's hardware to make the picnic area a reality. The residents are pleased with the newly renovated area behind their apartments and look forward to using it soon.



before



during



after

## MR Prize Winner

~Nancy Miller

Congratulations to Miss Florence from the Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc.'s Senior Program for winning an all expense paid trip to Akron, Ohio to see "Joseph - Coat of Many Colors". The prize includes round trip airfare, dinner and the show at the Carousal Dinner Theatre.

Florence attends the Braddock Hills Senior Center and is very involved with the center's activities. She volunteers five days per week in the kitchen and is on the activities planning committee. She also belongs to the "500" Rum Card Club and the "Pokeno Club". Congratulations to Florence!!!!



## Employee Spotlight

*Every newsletter a random employee will be chosen to be profiled. This is a test month to show what the following profiles will look like. Who will be in the next issue??*

**Name:** Kimberly Mroziak

**Site Location:** 723 Braddock

**How long have you worked here?** 2 years and 4 months

**What is your position?** Marketing and Outreach Coordinator

**What do you like best about your job?** I love being able to work with all of the departments in the Agency to develop ways to show the community the help that we provide to others. You all do great work and I love to be able to tell everyone about it!

**What was your very first job?** This is my first "real world" job.

**If you could have dinner with anyone (living or dead) who would you choose?** Jennifer Lopez

**What 3 things can always be found in your fridge?** Pepsi, apples and french fries

**What is your favorite vacation spot?** Anywhere warm and sunny! Probably Cancun.

**What accomplishment are you most proud of?** Graduating college since I wasn't sure if I wanted to go.

**What is your pet, and it's name?** Silver Persian named Samantha Jo

**Whom do you most admire and why?** My mom because she's so selfless. She is always willing to help anyone even if she doesn't have the time or energy.

## Letter from the Editor

Thank you to everyone who submitted to the October edition of Turtle Creek Valley News. This edition will feature events and happenings since July 2003. October News was a great success!

Just a personal thank you to all of the employees that made contributions to this newsletter. We had great employee involvement during this issue! Also, a big thank you to all of you who read this newsletter and are continued supporters of this Agency! We really appreciate your support of our programs, and like to show you the good work of the staff.

Yet another thank you to everyone that contributed and helped with the golf outing this year! Without your involvement, the event would not have been a success. I'm looking forward to next year's outing. I hope that those who attended, continue to participate, and those that did not participate, give it great consideration.

Please remember to continue to check out [www.tcv.net](http://www.tcv.net) for job openings and events happening at TCV. Have a Happy Halloween and holidays to come!

*Please remember to ask your family and friends to designate Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. as the recipient of their United Way gift through the Contributor Choice option when completing the United Way form, or donate online at [www.unitedwaypittsburgh.org](http://www.unitedwaypittsburgh.org).*

**TCV's United Way code is #136.**

**Judy Monahan Grystar, LSW**

*Turtle Creek Valley  
MH/MR, Inc.  
Executive Director*

***Turtle Creek Valley  
News Staff***

**Kimberly Mroziak**

Editor/Layout

### **Contributors**

Gail Burner	Robin Evans
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Nancy Miller	Rick Williams
Patti Pastor	Olivia Zitelli
Alby Gates	Janie King
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Dee Piskor	

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*To report duplicate mailings, provide feedback, or to be added to the Turtle Creek Valley News mailing list, please email Kym at [KMroziak@tcvmhmr.org](mailto:KMroziak@tcvmhmr.org)*

***Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc.***

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