



Plans Underway for New Family Respite Center

People Inc. is pleased to announce that plans are underway for a new Family Respite Center to serve individuals with special needs and their families.

People Inc.'s Respite House is currently located in Williamsville and offers planned or emergency on-site care, by the hour or overnight for people with developmental disabilities over the age of 10 years. It also provides opportunities for caregivers to take much-needed breaks.

"I don't worry because I know he'll be happy and well cared for."

- Nancy Howlett,
mother of Respite
House participant

The new Family Respite Center will offer a larger, brighter, more easily accessible site for its participants. Locations in

central Erie County are currently being scouted for the new site, which will be a one-story structure able to accommodate up to 10 individuals at a time, plus staff.

The state-of-the-art design will be very similar to the Individualized Residential Alternative group homes most recently opened by People Inc., but will also include a large open space for recreation and relaxing. There will be brand new furnishings and equipment and the home will be wheelchair accessible.

Nancy Howlett is one parent who sings the praises of Respite House and is excited

that a larger location will soon be available.

"Because of the Respite House, I can get breaks from the constant care my son needs, making it possible for him to live at home with me," Ms. Howlett said.

"Sometimes he spends the day at Respite and I can go to church, do errands, see friends or just rest. Other times he spends several days and nights and I can take a trip to see friends or new places.

"I don't worry because I know he'll be happy and well cared for. The staff works to meet his physical, social and emotional needs," she said.

There will be several phases in the planning and construction of the new Family Respite Center, including a Capital Campaign to kick off shortly. The Family Respite Center Capital Campaign will be the major focus of the People Inc. Foundation over the next two years. Proceeds from this year's *Drive Fore Disabilities* Golf Tournament will go toward the Family Respite Center campaign (see page 1, *Foundationnews* insert).

For more information about the new Family Respite Center plans, contact Rhonda Frederick, People Inc.'s chief operating officer, at 817-7426.

What's INSIDE

Foundationnews



- Drive Fore Disabilities Golf Tournament a Huge Success
Foundationnews



- People Inc. Reps Convene with Albany Lawmakers
Page 6



At right is an artist's rendering of the new Family Respite Center.

Dear Friends,

At People Inc., we are aware that caring for a loved one with a disability can sometimes be challenging. That is why we offer a wide range of respite opportunities for individuals and families. Respite offers caretakers a chance to “take a break” occasionally while feeling secure that their family member is receiving quality care, whether it be after school, overnight or on weekends.

As you can see from this issue’s cover story, we are launching a concentrated fundraising campaign to build a new Family Respite Center in central Erie County. Our current Respite House in Williamsville has served us well for many years, but we have recognized the need for a site that is larger, more comfortable and more easily accessible for our families and participants.

The new Center will have capacity for up to 10 individuals during the day and will be able to accommodate four individuals for overnight respite care, all in private sleeping rooms. It will be a home-like setting with an open courtyard area and lots of room for recreation, but will also have the technologically advanced equipment necessary to serve our consumers.

Most importantly, the new Family Respite Center will also allow us to serve more families. Recent statistics show that more than 400 families have expressed a need for respite services that are as unmet. We anticipate being able to offer a 30 percent increase in services in the new Center’s first year of operation.

We hope you join in our excitement as we embark upon this new endeavor, continuing our goal to provide the best service to our consumers and families.



Best Regards,

James M Boles

James M. Boles, Ed.D.
President and CEO

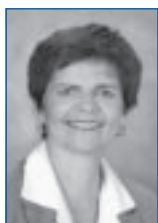
Dear Friends,

We have been fortunate to have such committed people serve on our Board of Directors over the years. A sterling example of this is Andrea Millerschoen, who will be missed as she relocates to sunny Florida in the coming months. Since joining the Board in 1991, Andrea has served in many leadership capacities, including past President.

As Chair of our Ownership Linkage Committee, Andrea led our Board’s outreach to hear from the Western New York community about important policy issues. In our recent Board survey, conducted at the annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day at the Buffalo Convention Center, approximately 340 people took the opportunity to assess the need for respite services. We found that **55 percent** of those answering rated the availability of respite services as **far less than adequate**.

We are responding to the need for increased respite services through a campaign for a new Family Respite Center. We know that this project will provide a much-needed expansion of services for people with developmental disabilities and the families who care for them. Our Board is committed to participating in this worthy endeavor and welcomes your involvement as well.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend my thanks to all our families and friends for your continued support of our mission.



In Your Service,

Nancy A Dobson

Nancy A. Dobson
Board Chairperson

People Inc. exists so that individuals with disabling conditions or other special needs have the support they need to participate and succeed in an accepting society.





Showcasing Artistic Talents

Consumers at the Central Park Plaza Day Treatment Center in Buffalo have an opportunity to share their artistic talents at the new Fraser Carr Art Gallery that opened this year. It is sponsored by the Senior Citizens Group and is named in honor of Fraser Carr, a program participant at CPP who passed away in early 2003. In addition to displaying artwork made by CPP consumers, the gallery played host to a traveling exhibit entitled the "Exceptional Artwork Traveling Show" in April and May. The photo at left shows program participant Liz Scott admiring her artwork along with Ray Smith, an adult education teacher with Buffalo Public Schools.

People Inc. Increases Advocacy Efforts in Albany

People Inc. is increasing its presence in our state capitol so that we can better advocate for our consumers with developmental disabilities. In June, Kevin Horrigan, People Inc.'s director of Community Relations, attended the State Assembly's Developmental Disabilities Day in Albany.

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver gave the opening address for DD Day, which had several representatives in attendance from OMRDD and state-wide advocacy organizations. Immediately following Silver's opening remarks, the Assembly went to work and passed all legislation affecting people with developmental disabilities in front of a gallery filled with DD advocates.

Among the numerous pieces of legislation passed were: easier polling place and handicap parking accessibility, as well as an establishment of a requirement for better reporting of wheelchair occupants injured in traffic incidents while being transported.

Assemblymember Brian Higgins took the opportunity at DD Day to introduce Horrigan and People Inc. before the entire Assembly. Assemblymember Higgins gave his colleagues a brief presentation on the plethora of services People Inc. provides in Buffalo Niagara. Higgins also stressed the fact that the agency employs close to 2,000 people



Pictured in Albany at DD Day are, from left, Assemblymember Dick Smith (Hamburg); Kevin Horrigan, Director of Community Relations, People Inc.; Kevin Banes, Legislative Director; Assemblymember Kevin Cahill, Disabilities Committee Chair; Assemblymember Brian Higgins (Buffalo); and Kim Hill, executive director for the Task Force on People with Disabilities.

in the community and that it is the largest human services provider in Buffalo Niagara for those with developmental disabilities.

Beside Higgins, Horrigan also met with Assemblymembers Tokasz, Hoyt, Smith, and Peoples as well as New York State Senators Volker, Rath and Brown.

Congratulations to **Nancy**

Palumbo-Reeve, who

was promoted to Vice

President at People Inc.,

overseeing the Human

Resources, Information

Technology and Training

departments.



Adult Medical Care • Pediatrics • Gynecology
Podiatry • Occupational/Physical/Speech Therapies
On-Site Lab • Counseling Services • Vision Services

Monday to Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Evening and Saturday morning hours available
2128 ELMWOOD AVENUE • BUFFALO, NY 14207 • 874-4500 • www.people-inc.org/elmwoodhealthcenter

New Key Computer Training Center Opens Thanks to KeyBank Donation



Celebrating the opening of the Key Computer Training Center are, from left, Dr. James M. Boles, People Inc. president and CEO, Marsha S. Henderson, president of KeyBank of Western New York, and David Mack-Hardiman, training director at People Inc.

Representatives of People Inc. and KeyBank of Western New York celebrated on June 23 with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the agency's first computer training lab located at People Inc.'s 976 Delaware Ave. Training Center in Buffalo. KeyBank in Western New York donated \$20,000 for the Computer Training Lab.

"The Key Computer Training Center will be a wonderful enhancement to our employee orientation program," said James M. Boles, People Inc. president and CEO. "Computers are critical to how we operate and communicate within an agency the size of People Inc. We are very grateful that KeyBank understood our needs and responded with the generous donation that funded the lab."

"KeyBank has a mission to support workforce development initiatives in our community, in order to enhance the skills of our local employment base," said Marsha S. Henderson, president of KeyBank of Western New York. "We are happy to fund this computer training center and hope it will benefit a growing number of people today and into the future."

People Inc.'s current orientation program totals more than 80 new staff monthly. The computer-training lab will also be used by the agency's training department in their continuing education programs. Future plans may include incorporating computer-learning activities for individuals with developmental disabilities who receive services from the agency.

"The opening of the Key Computer Training Center will have an exciting impact on our entire agency," said People Inc. training director David Mack-Hardiman. "We look forward to providing innovative new training programs in this interactive, hands-on learning environment."

Looking for a job

where you can make a

difference? Check out

the various employment

opportunities at People Inc.

by visiting our website at

www.people-inc.org/jobs.



Equal Opportunity Employer

Committee Shares Family Perspectives

The People Inc. **Community Advisory Committee** is an active group of consumers, family members and other community advocates who serve as advisors in the area of Program Development. They share consumer and family perspectives to improve communication between agency staff and families.

The chairperson for the committee is Elsa Peters, a parent and community advocate. "The Advisory Committee has offered me and other families and consumers an opportunity to share ideas and various perspectives with agency staff and management," she said.

The committee has a number of ongoing projects, including:

- Maintaining a checklist of consumers' daily routines for staff use to help make residences more homelike;
- Assisting staff in developing a staff training video on some important issues to family members;
- Reviewing new residential developments and grant proposals;
- Advocating for policies that improve the health of consumers in our residences, i.e. timely flu inoculations and smoking prevention initiatives; and
- Commenting on the state budget proposals to appropriate parties that affect funding for developmental disabilities services.

Members of the committee include: Charles Abbott, Jason Baehre, Rita Bailey, Diane and George Bantle, Betty Casey, Barbara and Joseph Catalano, Maureen Diggins, David Doyle, Marion Fields, Marion Goldstein, M.D., Joan Harms, Tom and Mary Ann Hutchinson, Stacie Lembke, Mary Ann McClellan, Kevin Nowak, Christine Oliver, M.D., Ellen Owens, Elsa Peters, Susan Picerno, J.T. Pollard, Lori and Gary Rende, Cathy Skerker, Beverly Stoehr, Myra Trautman, Debbie Walk, Eileen Wheeler and Susan Zlotek.

"We would welcome newcomers at our meetings and/or any sharing of concerns to help us all work together more effectively," Peters said. Anyone interested in joining the committee can call Peters at 773-2351.

Museum of disABILITY History Looks Forward to Future



Douglas A. Platt, project coordinator for the Museum of disABILITY History, discusses the Museum's latest exhibit with an interested observer at DD Day in May. The exhibit, "What If? — options in dd history," debuted at DD Day. It features pictures of people and places during three significant decades, the 1880s, 1920s and the 1940s. The exhibit will be traveling to Albany this September to be part of the New York State Rehabilitation Association's 25th Anniversary Celebration. The Museum of disABILITY History is currently pursuing a charter through the New York State Board of Regents and working with interns to expand its collection. It was recently given a permanent display site at People Inc.'s new satellite office at 1291 North Forest Road in Williamsville. For more information about the Museum of disABILITY History, contact Platt at 817-7477.

The following People Inc. departments are now located at our new offices on 280 Sprindrift Drive in Williamsville:

Admissions

Quality Assurance

Service Coordination

Behavioral Support Services

Residential Services Administrators

Nursing Administration

Day Treatment/Day Habilitation Support

Call (716) 632-4843 for more information.

Speak Up! Program Accepting Participants

Speak Up!, People Inc.'s free, innovative program that matches caring senior volunteers and children with speech and language delays to encourage language development, is currently accepting participants.

The **Speak Up!** program is offered at **no cost** to children who have been diagnosed with a developmental or speech and language delay. It offers a non-therapeutic opportunity to promote language skills in children while they interact in a fun, social environment. The children and seniors participate in one-on-one and group activities designed to encourage communication, such as reading books, singing songs, playing games and craft activities.

The senior volunteers, age 55 and older, receive 60-plus hours of training before beginning the program, which takes place Saturday mornings at 2128 Elmwood Ave. in Buffalo. A parent or guardian is required to attend each session.

For more information about **Speak Up!**, contact Maryann Stry, program coordinator, at 874-5600, ext. 4834.

People Inc. Nominates Officials for NYSRA Award

People Inc. is pleased to nominate West Seneca Town Board Member Tim Wroblewski and City of Buffalo Niagara District Councilmember Nick Bonifacio to the New York State Rehabilitation Association (NYSRA) for this year's **Outstanding Public Officials Awards**.

Both Wroblewski and Bonifacio were pivotal in their municipalities in working with People Inc.'s COO Rhonda Frederick at obtaining approvals for People Inc. projects.

"Tim and Nick exemplify what public officials can do to advocate for our consumers with developmental disabilities," said Frederick.

Resident Celebrates 85th Birthday



Eddie Reehling, a resident of Newton group home in Silver Creek, celebrated his 85th birthday in March with his friends, staff and fellow residents. Reehling has been associated with People Inc. since 1981 and has called Newton IRA his home for the past eight years. Reehling is very outgoing and has the energy of a man half his age. His pastimes include horses, yardwork and singing. He currently attends a day program with several peers. The staff at Newton IRA said that Reehling endears himself to all who meet him and that they consider him a great treasure.

New Opportunities for Senior Housing

People Inc. is pleased to announce that construction is underway for a new affordable senior housing complex in Western New York. Robin Road Senior Housing in Amherst is currently slated to open in early 2004 and will consist of 49 apartment units. Each apartment includes a bedroom, kitchen, living/dining area, single bathroom and new appliances. Also included as part of the complex is a furnished community room for social activities, laundry facilities and 24-hour on-call emergency services.

Plans are also underway for Carnation Senior Housing in Orchard Park, which is slated to open in mid-2004. Carnation will offer all the same amenities as Robin Road.

People Inc. is currently accepting names for a mailing list of people interested in obtaining an apartment in either the Robin Road or Carnation complex. People on the mailing list will be sent a preliminary interest form. Applications for the apartments will be accepted 90 days before the complexes are slated to open.

Seniors age 62 and older who are able to live independently and have an annual income lower than \$18,400 for one person or \$21,000 for two people in the household are eligible to apply for an apartment. The tenant's monthly rent is based on income.

People Inc. currently operates senior housing complexes in Blasdell, Cheektowaga, Grand Island, Hamburg, North Buffalo and South Buffalo. People Inc. senior housing complexes are an Equal Opportunity Housing provider and have been awarded the United States Department of HUD National Best Practices Award.

Currently, there are apartments available at Marigold Senior Housing in Grand Island. For details, contact Betsy Runick, housing manager, at 773-0907.

If you have a family member or friend who may be in need of People Inc.'s affordable senior housing or if you would like more information, contact Denise Paszkiewicz, program director, at 817-7470.



Residents of People Inc. Senior Housing enjoy a summer picnic.



People Inc. offers:

- Children's Services
- Community Outreach
- Day Programs
- Family Support
- Home Health Care
- Information and Referral
- Primary Health Care
- Recreation Programs
- Residential Opportunities
- Respite
- Senior Housing
- Senior Services
- Service Coordination
- Training and Employment Services

People Inc. Offers Hands-on Internship Program

People Inc. offers an innovative Internship Program, which enables students to "earn while they learn" and gain valuable experience in working with individuals who have developmental disabilities.

People Inc. developed the Internship Program to encourage Western New York college students to move forward with their career goals and build firm foundations through strong work experiences. The Internship Program is a hands-on practicum that is directly related to a student's course of study in health and human services, special education, social sciences or general studies.

According to Patricia Snyder, People Inc.'s Internship Program coordinator, "The Internship Program gives students the opportunity to improve their resume qualifications, network with professionals in their field and improve the quality of life for someone with special needs. Students currently enrolled in the program have reported positive experiences that are molding their future career paths. Professors, department chair-people and career development coordinators have worked hand-in-hand with People Inc. representatives to provide a challenging and fulfilling practicum."

People Inc.'s Internship Program can match the needs of a student's busy schedule by offering a variety of convenient working hours at designated sites close to home or dormitory. Currently, 46 students are enrolled in the program. For more information, call Patricia Snyder, Internship Program coordinator, at 817-7478.

Telephone Survey Will Help Guide Marketing Efforts

People Inc. has contracted the services of Goldhaber Research Associates, LLC (GRA) of Amherst, NY, to help determine the agency's marketing needs in the Western New York area. GRA is a full-service market research company with 25 years of experience in custom-designed market studies, public opinion research and communication research.

GRA will conduct 600 telephone interviews of Erie and Niagara County residents to assess their awareness and perception of People Inc. as well as our services. Other questions will include determining how people have heard about the agency, identifying past and/or potential usage of our services and determining the interest level for employment at People Inc.

The survey's results will be used to help guide external marketing efforts and branding initiatives for People Inc.

Special Partners, Special Projects — Grant Awards

People Inc. received a \$13,000 grant from the **New York State Department of Health's Heart Healthy Program** that will fund nutrition education in the agency's group homes. Obesity has reached epidemic proportions in America, placing thousands of people at risk for deadly secondary conditions like diabetes and heart disease. People Inc. will use the grant funds to train staff and consumers to shop and eat heart healthy, and encourage them to adopt more active lifestyles appropriate to their abilities.

Fleet Boston Financial Foundation awarded People Inc. a \$5,000 grant for a career development program for special education and minority students. People Inc. staff work with teachers to help these City of Buffalo high school students reach successful post-high school transition and career exploration. In addition to its generous financial investment, Fleet Bank will offer job shadowing and mentoring opportunities at Fleet branches throughout Buffalo for students who participate in this program.

For the fifth consecutive year, People Inc. received a \$12,500 grant from the **New York State Department of Labor Hazard Abatement Board** for its Virtues of Excellence training program for human services. The program covers the 12 "virtues" of excellence in providing human services, including assertiveness, empathy, flexibility, honesty, humility, humor, patience, perseverance, prediction, resilience, responsibility and wisdom.

People Inc. secured a \$352,650 contract from **VESID** (Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities) to provide vocational supports to people with developmental disabilities in 2003. This funding was vitally important for the continuation of the Employment and Training Services Department and its efforts to help participants find and retain jobs.

The **PeoplePage** is People

Inc.'s free monthly e-mail

newsletter. To subscribe,

visit our website at

www.people-inc.org.

Families Say 'Thank You!' to Staff

An appreciation dinner was held in March at the West End Inn for staff members of the Eggert Road Intermediate Care Facility in Orchard Park. The dinner was sponsored by family members of the Eggert Road residence to show their appreciation for the staff who do so much for their loved ones. The parents thanked the staff for the loving atmosphere they create at Eggert Road, in addition to the day-to-day personal and medical care given to the residents, along with recreational opportunities. People Inc. would like to thank the families who went out of their way to recognize our employees. "This group of families is very well known for their involvement," said Nadine Lewandowski, vice president at People Inc. "We appreciate how much they care about their loved ones and the services they receive from our agency."

Kids are too!

From birth to age 21, our **Children's Services** enhance growth and development, while providing support and assistance for families of children with disabilities.

Respite Services

Admissions • Early Intervention

Elmwood Health Center

Employment and Training Programs

Licensed and Certified Home Health Care

Residential Programs

Personal Enrichment Program (PEP)

Behavioral Support Services

At-Home Residential Habilitation

Speak Up! • Transition

Young Adult Life Transitions Program (YALT)

For more information, contact the Admissions Department at 632-4843.

People TO People

A PUBLICATION OF PEOPLE INC.

1219 North Forest Road
PO Box 9033
Williamsville, New York 14231-9033

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Buffalo, NY
Permit No. 281

People to People is published for the families, consumers, volunteers, Board and friends of People Inc.

Board Chairperson
Nancy A. Dobson

President & CEO
James M. Boles, Ed.D.

Editor
Catherine Wilde

Marketing & Communications Manager
Nicole Passantino

Contributing Writers
Nicole Passantino

Contact the Marketing Dept. by calling (716) 634-8132.



Please share this newsletter with a friend.

Gifts of Caring

from January to June 2003

People Inc. gratefully accepts "Gifts of Caring" donations. All gifts are acknowledged, both to the honoree's family and to the donor.

In Tribute to Robert I. Allen
Delaware North Companies, Inc.
Harvey Instruments
Mrs. Lynn A. Kelly
People Inc. Service Coordination Supervisors
Ms. Janice Remsnyder

In Tribute to Jan Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. Donald U. Bailey

In Tribute to Freda Ballantyne
Ms. Beverly A. Ballantyne

In Tribute to Timothy Bannigan
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Conway
Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. DalPorto
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Debo
Ms. Cynthia Faulkner
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Fellows
Mr. Arthur Hamilt

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Heer
Ms. Mary Ann Hertel
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Korinek
Ms. Mary F. Morgan
Ms. Joy M. Murphy
Mr. Richard A. Neumeister
Ms. Linda O'Horo
Mrs. Margaret F. Redinbaugh
Ms. Margaret G. Redinbaugh
Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Rounds
Mr. Joseph P. Sudbay
Mr. and Mrs. Sal Terranova
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wheeler and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Whissel

In Tribute to Howard Benson
Ms. Irene Groy

In Tribute to David S. Bowman
Mr. Martin Bowman and Ms. Gillian Horgan

In Tribute to June Box
Dr. Harold C. Box

In Tribute to Sylvia Chmiel
Ms. Theodora L. Byron

In Tribute to James Civial
Mrs. Rosalie Civial

In Tribute to Marguerite Crocker
Mrs. Bette M. Schweizer

In Tribute to Robert Decano
Ms. Joan Goldman

In Tribute to Marion Desmarest
Mr. Edward J. Desmarest

In Tribute to Nancy A. Dobson
Romanello's Roseland Restaurant

In Tribute to Jean A. Gladwell
Mrs. Kathryn F. Gladwell

In Tribute to Joseph B. Gorczyca, Sr.
Mrs. Emily Gorczyca

In Tribute to Bertha Grossberg
Mr. and Mrs. William Katz

In Tribute to Theodore Haas
Mr. Michael P. Defelice

In Tribute to Hugh W. Hardy
Mrs. Joan Friehe

In Tribute to Kelly Heywood
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Heywood

In Tribute to Bruce Kelly
Mr. Donald V. Kelly

In Tribute to Ronald Korn
Ms. Lorraine H. Rykowski

In Tribute to John M. Kuck
Mrs. Michele D. White

In Tribute to Rose M. LaMastra
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Cammarata

In Tribute to Theresa Lumia
Mrs. Rita M. Lumia

In Tribute to Pamela Manganello
Mr. and Mrs. Jack T. Manganello

(Continued on page 3, Foundationews)