

NEWS from Susan Coyle, CEO

On behalf of Chartiers Center I want to thank our staff for working so hard to prepare for the move from Pathfinder. The transition to the Dormont site would not have gone smoothly without the hours of planning and willingness of staff to cooperatively work together to provide a welcome environment for the folks from our old Pathfinder program. In addition, I want to let all our families know of our commitment to working out the details of permits and licensing so we can open our new program. I understand this is a difficult time for you and we appreciate your patience. We will keep you posted on our progress. In the meantime if you have questions please feel free to call me at 412 221-3302 ext. 129.



Good Memories. Good Friends.



As Chartiers prepared to transition the folks from the Pathfinder Program to the Dormont site many activities were planned. A banner was created acknowledging the memories and friends (see photo above) and it was signed by the individuals and staff at the Pathfinder site. The banner titled, "Good Friends, Good Memories!" will hang up at the Dormont site until we can celebrate the next move to the new program site. In addition, a cake and thank you cards were passed out from the staff to all of the individuals.

While all this was happening at Pathfinder, the Dormont site was preparing to greet their new friends who would be joining their program. Welcome banners were created by the folks at the Dormont site (photo top right) as the staff made physical changes to the layout of the space, creating more space. Lots of conversation took place as staff prepared the group for all the new changes.

INDOOR PICNIC GOOD TIME FOR ALL

On July 1, 2015, the folks in Chartiers IDD Program got an early start on the July 4th holiday with an indoor picnic at Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church. The Pathfinder and Dormont site came together at the church while the program transition took place. Pictured is Chartiers' staff, from the main office in Bridgeville, preparing to serve the hungry crowd.

During the transition process, you are encouraged to call Minnie Rauterkus, Supervisor, (412) 344-7025 or Mike Turk, Assistant COO of IDD Services (412) 221-3302 with your questions.



NEW DESIGNS

The specialists and aides in the program are working with a new floor design and have taken advantage of some of the changes to redesign their work areas. The space now even allows for an “art gallery” wall which is the perfect place to highlight the budding artists:



New designs are playing out throughout the program in the form of hands on craft activities, cooking, games etc. Each week 1 theme is chosen and it is incorporated into the daily activities. The individuals had a group meeting and came up with the following ideas to date:

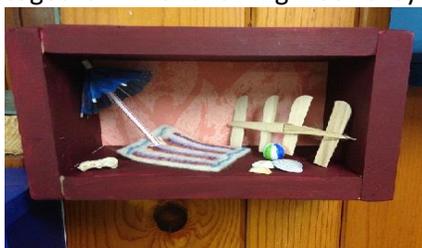
the beach,
transportation,
tools, carnival,
music and
fishing. During
beach week, a
small pool was
brought in to



create a fishing pond; sand was carted in and provided wonderful tactile opportunities in addition to sand designs; and there were even treats from the ocean!



Another group combined their themes: beach and tools. The first week they used their tools to make the shadow boxes any everyone got to paint and nail the boxes together. The following week they designed a beach



theme within their shadow boxes. Now that the boxes are made, they will provide the “frames” for the next art project!

While the weekly themes tap into the talents of all the staff, some of the activities take place in the kitchen. Using zucchini picked from the Chartiers’ garden, the upstairs group made zucchini noodles while the downstairs group made zucchini boats. The smells coming from the kitchen that week were tantalizing! Overall, the goal each week is to take a theme and create an activity that everyone can participate in. Music sing-alongs are popular favorites, and now the group is even trying yoga!

The staff is finding that the consumers are really enjoying having a “theme” that ties together their daily activities, crafts, cooking, and games. Some of the individuals have even asked for another client meeting. They must be making lists off what they want to explore next!

The staff and the individuals from Dormont have welcomed their new friends from the Pathfinder site and have designed a space that offers something for everyone. There is no limit to what happens next.

NEW IDD SUPPORT GROUP:

Wednesday, August 26, 2015 from 12PM – 1PM

Chartiers Center (3rd Fl. Boardroom)
437 Railroad Street, Bridgeville PA 15017

The group is for families and caregivers of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

PARKING: quarters needed for metered parking.

RSVP: Melissa Zirwas
(412)221-3302 ext. 124

mzirwas@chartierscenter.org

If you can't join us, call for the date of the next meeting.



As staff work through the transition process we want to send you updates on our progress with the new space. Therefore, you will receive this newsletter monthly. If you prefer to receive it as an email, send an email to Mary Kay Bonn at mbonn@chartierscenter.org and include the word “family” in the subject line.