

Friends Aware Hosts "Chamber After Hours"

Friends Aware hosted the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce's "Chamber After Hours" event in March. The popular "Chamber After Hours" programs offer a casual and enjoyable way to learn about other area companies and to meet fellow Chamber members.

The turnout was outstanding with over 200 people in attendance. Guests enjoyed an evening filled with great food, drinks, and acoustic entertainment by Eric Breighner. Door prizes were donated by ACS, Natures Art, and Rocky Gap Lodge & Golf Resort. Attendees were given the opportunity to learn more about Friends Aware by taking a tour of the facility. Many thanks to all the staff members who volunteered their time and talents!



Jane Eaton and Jessica Neff preparing for the "Chamber After Hours."



Farewell...

Jo Ann Davis, LEC Program Coordinator says farewell to her many friends at the Life Enrichment Center. Jo Ann has touched many lives during her 27-year career at Friends Aware. She will be enjoying her retirement with her family and her beautiful grandchildren. She told everyone not to worry—Jo will return as a volunteer, and will come back to visit her Friends Aware family.

Jo Ann Davis (standing in center)

2011 Annual Band Blitz

The LEC— A Hoppin' Place!

The Life Enrichment Center recently made Bunny Baskets from recycled material, which were donated to local non-profit organizations for Easter.



Adam Smith prepares handles for the Bunny Baskets.



Left to Right: Roxanne Lewis watches Kim Knezy paint Easter Baskets, with the assistance of Eric Pownall.

14th Annual Ox Roast

Friday, June 17, 2011,
from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.
at the Ali Ghan Shrine
Club Picnic Grounds

Tickets on Sale Now!

Order Online at
www.friendsaware.org
or Call 301-722-7268

Donor Packages also available

The 11th Annual Band Blitz was held on March 26th and 27th at the Cumberland Outdoor Club. It was an exciting two-day blow-out event! This fundraiser was created eleven years ago by Tim Haines and Kim Plummer, along with the late Debra Ray, to help offset expenses that our friends at Friends Aware may have. The Band Blitz was expanded to a two-day event in 2010, thanks to the tremendous support of our local bands.

Since its inception, the Band Blitz has enabled us to raise over \$15,000.00 to provide assistance to individuals receiving services through FAI, who are identified to be in need. Some items which have been paid for by the Band Blitz fund in the past include: outings, picnic supplies, teeth cleaning, electric bill, art supplies, eyeglasses, dental expenses, swimwear, winter clothes and boots, haircuts, hearing aids, exercise bike, equipment for staff to train consumers which includes a large screen TV, projector and pull down screen.

Over \$4000 was raised at this year's event! Raffles and 50/50 drawings were also held, and Commemorative T-shirts were sold. Many thanks to all the volunteers, donors, sponsors and patrons who helped make this event a success—especially the 17 local bands who generously donated their time and talents... Beyond Down, Captain Howdy, Cramer Brothers and Haines, John Wilson and Steve Baer, John Felton and the Soulmobile, Lady Invidia, Nubie, The Packing Peanuts, Project 37, Public Menace, Simon Sez, So Low, Sonic Mule, Strangers with Candy, Transcending, and Tucker Hill Haze.



Sixteen local bands donated their time and talents to make the event a success!



Lois Russell (standing) with Linda Moses, exercising on the recumbent bike, which was recently purchased with the help of the Band Blitz Fund.

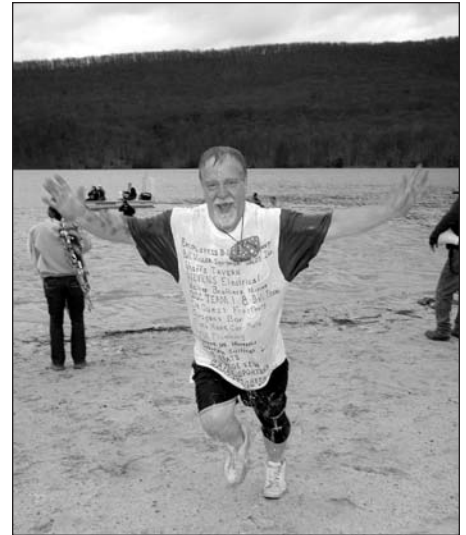
Friends Aware Takes the PLUNGE!

The seventh annual Hooley Plunge was held on Saturday, March 5th, 2011 at Rocky Gap State Park. The Hooley Plunge raises funds for the Special Olympics of Allegany County and other local programs for the developmentally disabled.

Friends Aware's Hooley Plunge Team raised over \$5,600 for the fundraising event. More than 20 members of the team "took the plunge" into the frigid waters of Lake Habeeb! Once again, the Law Offices of Noonan & Noonan sponsored the shirts for our "Plungers." Many Thanks to all the staff members, friends, and family who participated and continue to support this wonderful cause.



Kathleen Breighner (right), FAI CRRD Director, presents gift cards to FAI Hooley Contest winners Skip and Chelsea Sullivan, who raised \$2800 for the cause.



Skipping to shore!



The 2011 Friends Aware Hooley Plunge Team.



FAI HR Director Jessica Neff (left) with Duke and Beau Noonan, of the Law Offices of Noonan & Noonan, Friends Aware's T-Shirt Sponsor.

Annual FAI Spring Fling

The Social Committee holds four events annually for individuals receiving services from Friends Aware, Inc. The Spring Fling is an annual event that is enjoyed by all who attend. Special thanks to the Social Committee and their many sponsors who help to make this and other events possible.



Friends Dancing at the Annual Spring Fling.

January 1, 2011 - March 31, 2011

Friends Aware Contributors

Thank You for Your Generous Donations!

- Mr. & Mrs. Brian Dougherty
CBIZ
- Mr. Greg Smith
- Mr. Patrick Miller
- Mr. & Mrs. Frankie Lease
GFWC-MFWC Western District, Inc.
- Ms. Mary Ruddell
- Mr. Joseph Washington
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Custer
Noonan & Noonan, LLC
- Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Hohing
- Mr. & Mrs. David Adams

Quality Assurance Plan Approved for FY2011

In response to a requirement by the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Friends Aware has submitted and gained approval for its Quality Assurance Plan for FY2011.

Interested individuals may obtain a copy of the plan for review by visiting the Friends Aware administrative office at 1601 Holland Street, Cumberland, MD.

Nancy Wigfield is Quarterly Winner of LEC Achievement Award

Nancy Wigfield has been attending the Friends Aware Day Program for over 30 years. She has been through many changes and has received acknowledgment for her many accomplishments over the years, but none like the one that was presented to her on April 5, 2011. Nancy laughed and cried tears of happiness as her peers and staff applauded her when she received the **Life Enrichment Center Quarterly Achievement Award**.

In January 2011, Nancy moved into her own home and started receiving assistance from CECA for supports. Nancy had resided in Cumberland with her mother until this January when she made the move. Nancy expressed that she is very happy in her new home and enjoys the company of her roommate. Although she misses staying with mom, she is also enjoying her new found independence. She is now attending various functions in the community and getting better acquainted with her new staff at home.

This new sense of independence that Nancy has gained has also crossed over into her work at the Life Enrichment Center. Her staff report that Nancy has started



Nancy Wigfield

initiating more work tasks, has started mentoring some of the newer individuals in her area, and has also become more independent in her other tasks.

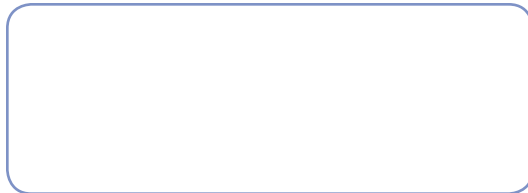
Nancy was nominated by her staff and friend Teresa Mason, who has been very impressed by how well she adjusted to her new living arrangement. Teresa has arranged Nancy's transportation needs for many years and has firsthand knowledge of the many strides that she has made. After many years of riding the "In-town" bus, Nancy now is transported by the "LaVale" transportation run. "She has adjusted extremely well," stated Teresa.

Nancy has shown all of us here at the LEC, that change can be good; it's all in what you make it.



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