

## Capital Campaign Community Partner Social

Friends Aware hosted a Community Partner Social on April 24, 2013 to thank our Business Partners for employing individuals or purchasing services. The event celebrated the launch of Friends Aware's "Building Independence" Capital Campaign—the next phase of providing exceptional services for individuals with developmental disabilities.



Board Members Frank Billard, Dottie Turner, and Bill Wilhelm look over plans for the new construction.



Mary Bond (center) shares Campaign information with guests.



Guests were entertained with tours of the facility, door prizes, and elegant refreshments.

Nearly 60 years ago, Friends Aware was born as a grass roots organization, with a handful of families who wanted more opportunities and a greater quality of life for their family members. Today, Friends Aware serves over 140 adults with developmental disabilities in Allegany County, and employs more than 240 full- and part-time staff members.

The Holland Street facility in Cumberland was originally built in the 1960s, with three additions constructed in 1978, 1988 and 2004. The aging structure is in dire need of renovation and expansion. The Capital Campaign Project will address issues of serious building deterioration and compliance with ADA and fire code, as well as expansion to increase efficiency and to accommodate growth and unmet need.

Thank you to all attendees, our gracious volunteers, and our Capital Campaign Committee for planning and hosting the evening. We appreciate your continued support and dedication to our mission!

For more information or to make contributions online, visit [www.friendsaware.org](http://www.friendsaware.org). Contributions may also be made by phone at 301-722-7268.

## Taking the Tour

Friends Aware recently gave a tour of the Life Enrichment Center and the site work that is currently underway for the "Building Independence" Capital Expansion Project.



Shown taking the tour are (L to R): Bill Atkinson, Maryland Department of Planning; Christopher Uhl, Western Regional Coordinator, Governor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs; Ray Bittner, FAI Building Committee Chairman; Robert Godfrey, FAI Executive Director; Al Feldstein, ARC Program Manager, Maryland Department of Planning; Jane Eaton, FAI Life Enrichment Center Director; and Lee Anne Santiago, FAI Board President.

## Sweet Donation!



Ron Peretti, Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus Council #1462 presents FAI Executive Director Robert Godfrey with a donation of \$984.00 from this year's "Tootsie Roll" campaign.

## Spring is in the Air

The Friends Aware Social Committee held their annual Spring Fling dinner and dance on March 21st at Windsor Castle. A great time was had by all!



Good Times with Good Friends!



Chris House taking a spin on the Dance Floor with Christina Sherman.

Social Committee Members Teresa Mason and Dave Pendergast welcome guests.



**Many Thanks go to the Staff who volunteered at this year's Band Blitz. Congratulations on a successful event raising \$4,818.10—Great Job!**

Jen Brown  
Sue Buehler  
Jeanette Gares  
Brenda Hayhurst  
Carol Ketterman  
Tracey Kidwell  
Kim Lattea  
Al McDonald  
Denise McDonald  
Stephanie Parks  
Jentiel Thomas  
Kelly Washington  
Libi Williams-Ziler

## Band Blitz 2013

The 13th Annual Band Blitz was held Friday evening, March 29th, and all day Saturday, March 30th, at the Cumberland Outdoor Club. A profit of \$7,059.00 was netted in door donations for Friday and Saturday's Easter Blowout! Door donations were split equally with our sister agency, Abilities Network, after expenses. In addition to door donations, Friends Aware sold T-shirts, and raised \$1,014.60 in basket raffles, and another \$249.00 in the 50/50 raffles held each day. Congratulations to Brenda Hayhurst from LEC 2 who won \$134.00 on Friday night's 50/50 raffle, and kindly donated \$25.00 back to the fund. (Thank You, Brenda!) After expenses (lighting, sound, T-shirts), Friends Aware's Individual Fund profited a grand total of \$4,818.10.

The Band Blitz has become a much-anticipated early spring event in the community, with many people looking forward to getting out and listening to some of the area's finest musicians. Friday night's line-up included: Baer Bones, Cramer Brothers and Tim Haines, John Felton and the Soul Machine, Public Menace, Simon Sez, and The Limit. The Friday night show began at 6:00 p.m. and continued into the early hours of the next day. Saturday's bands began at noon featuring: Twenty Miles to Friday, Rev, Transcending (musicians Jen Brown and Jentiel Thomas are FAI employees), Tucker Hill Haze, Autumn Sky, Dirty Deal, Strangerz, and Lady Invidia.

The intent of this event is to raise awareness and financial support for individuals with disabilities residing in our community. The Band Blitz was conceived by former FAI employees Tim Haines and the late Debbie Ray, along with current FAI employee Kimberly Lattea. The first one-day show premiered in 2000.

Preparation began several weeks prior to the event. Bands were contacted and scheduled, planning meetings with the officials at the Outdoor Club took place, lighting and sound coordinated, T-shirts ordered, staff was scheduled to work at various time slots on the days of the event, and a myriad of minor details addressed. Individuals in the Life Enrichment Center were involved by



Adam Lazarus (center) enjoying the Band Blitz with the band Transcending's vocalist Jentiel Thomas and drummer Jen Brown—both Residential CLAs—bass player Pete Kuhn, and guitarist Harley Kuhn.

making tie-dye T-shirts to sell at the event, soliciting donations from area businesses, and passing out/posting advertisements in the community. Staffing of the event is voluntary and 13 FAI staff members, in addition to musicians, assisted this year.

Since its inception, the Band Blitz has raised more than \$59,000.00 for individuals with disabilities in our community. At Friends Aware, this money has been earmarked to fulfill the needs of individuals who receive our services. Some items which have been paid for by these funds include media equipment used for consumer training in the LEC, a wheelchair scale for the residential program, clothing, shoes, work boots, dentures, dental work not covered by insurance, art supplies, safety videos, personal hygiene items, etc.

## Friends Aware Takes the Plunge!

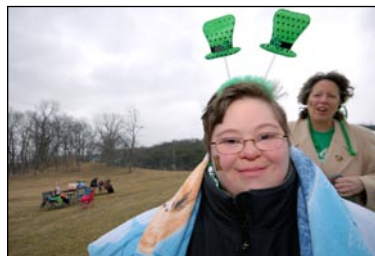


The 2013 Friends Aware Hooley Plunge Team

Friends Aware's Hooley Plunge Team raised \$4,671 in donations as part of the Ninth Annual Hooley Plunge held at Rocky Gap State Park on March 2, 2013. The Hooley Plunge raises funds for the Special Olympics of Allegany County and other local programs for the developmentally disabled. Friends Aware is one of the many recipients of this wonderful, worthwhile fundraising event. A big "Thank You" goes to Dr. Sean McCagh, Brad and Jim Stafford, and all the members of Wamba Caravan #89, International Order of Alhambra for organizing the event. Friends Aware is grateful to the members of the community and participating organizations who support and participate in the Hooley Plunge year after year.



Winners of the Friends Aware Staff Contest receiving gift cards for raising the most donations for the FAI Hooley Plunge Team. Left to right are Kathleen Breighner, Second Place Winner Kelly Washington, First Place Winner Amanda Evans, and FAI Executive Director Robert Godfrey.



Kaity Kauffman Cheers on the Team!



Special Thanks go to our FAI Team Shirt Sponsors, Wells Fargo Advisors.

Photo: W.A. Hedrick

### Spotlight

**C**hris Davis attends the Life Enrichment Center at Friends Aware. Over the past two years, he has received training to assist him in achieving his employment goals. During his first year at the LEC, he learned core skills, working on various onsite contracts, and participating in activities. Chris's hard work and drive shined through as he gained confidence and independence. Within his first year, he began working at a local business one day a week to shred documents. Chris continued to learn new skills at the LEC. Recently, he began working in the Friends Aware kitchen and dining room, taking on new responsibilities and mastering dish washing in the commercial kitchen. All of his hard work aided him in obtaining additional employment two evenings a week at a local non-profit where he performs an array of tasks.

**Congratulations to Chris for a job well done!**

### 16th Annual Ox Roast

Friday, June 21, 2013,  
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](http://www.friendsaware.org)  
or Call 301-722-7268

Donor Packages also available

#### Thank You to our Friends Aware Hooley Plunge Team and Volunteers:

Dan Reiss • Carol Prentiss • Kathleen Breighner • Kaitlyn Wharton  
Jeanette Gares • Rhonda Blubaugh • Sue Hartman • Alysa Cook  
Amanda Evans • Kelly Washington • Sara Scarlett • Sarah Llewellyn  
Haylie Harper • Robert Godfrey • Skip Sullivan • Pam Kauffman  
Patrick Godfrey • Nick Cook • Ricky Cook • Chad Cornett  
Adam Amazuca • Jennie Myers • Gary Morris



1601 Holland Street  
 Cumberland, MD 21502  
 Phone: 301-722-7268 • Fax: 301-724-8965  
 www.friendsaware.org

PRSRT STD  
 NONPROFIT  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 CUMBERLAND, MD  
 PERMIT NO. 963



FAI Info is designed and produced by  
 GGI Advertising, a division of General Graphics, Inc.

**Executive Director:** Robert Godfrey  
**Officers of the Board:** Lee Anne Santiago, President • Dottie Turner, Vice-President • Frank Billard, Secretary • Mirjhana Buck, Treasurer

Gifts ♦ January 1, 2013 – March 31, 2013 ♦ Gifts

**Friends Aware Contributors**

**Thank You for Your Generous Donations!**

- Ms. Virginia Lloyd
- Mr. Douglas Schwab
- Mrs. Elsie Ray
- Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Day
- Ms. Sapna Nagabhushan
- Mr. Joseph Washington
- Mrs. Wilma Delbrook
- Mr. Dan Plucinski
- Ms. Catherine Ashley-Cotleur
- Mr. Rahim Ashkebousi
- Mr. Dwane Dean
- Ms. Connie Groer
- Ms. Carol Arnone
- Ms. Kathie Shaffer
- Ms. Tammy Shockey
- Mr. Ali Ashraf
- Mr. Allen Shin
- Mr. Ahmad Tootoonchi
- Ms. Lilly Ye
- Mr. Sudhir Singh
- Mr. Keramat Poorsoltan
- Dr. Carol Gumer
- Ms. Karin Tedesco
- Ms. Sharon Robinson
- Mr. Michael Monahan
- Ms. Yan Bao
- Ms. Joyce Middleton
- Mr. Chad Garber
- Ms. Suzanne McCoskey
- Mr. John Neral
- Ms. Marie Liller
- W.A. Hedrick Photography

**“Our Town—Cumberland”**

Friends Aware was a proud sponsor of “Our Town—Cumberland,” recently aired by Maryland Public Television on March 9, 2013. The original MPT documentary was filmed entirely by local residents of Cumberland and Frostburg—including Friends Aware’s Kathleen Breighner—and featured narration by Cumberland native, actor William H. Macy. Friends Aware was well-represented in the program, which told the story of what makes Cumberland a special place to live and work, as revealed by its original commentary and footage. All interviewers, interviewees, and videographers were local citizens of Cumberland and neighboring Frostburg. Once filming was complete, MPT turned some 40 hours of raw film footage into the final 60-minute documentary.



Pledge Host Rhea Feikin (standing), with FAI Community Relations & Resource Development Director Kathleen Breighner (seated left), who answered phones in the studio during the premiere of “Our Town—Cumberland.”