

FAI Recognition Dinner

The Friends Aware Recognition Dinner was recently held at the Ali Ghan Shrine Club. **Hunter Douglas** was recognized as the 2010 Community Partner of the Year for their increased paid employment opportunities and financial support of Friends Aware. Accepting the award on behalf of Hunter Douglas were Lisa McIndoe, Joe Cox, Rebecca Sleeman and Kristi Durst. Hunter Douglas is the leading manufacturer of custom-made window fashions in North America. Their involvement with Friends Aware has grown over the past five years, with Friends Aware building over 1000 pallets



Lisa McIndoe (left), Hunter Douglas director of organizational development, with Joe Cox, Hunter Douglas production manager.

for the shipping department last year. FAI shredding teams have also traveled to Hunter Douglas several times per month for document shredding.

Bishop Walsh School was recognized as Volunteer of 2010. Sr. Phyllis McNally, SSND and Shelby Webb accepted the recognition award for their yearlong partnership in which



(Left to Right) Sr. Phyllis McNally SSND, Bishop Walsh president; Lee Ann Santiago, Friends Aware board president; and Shelby Webb, Bishop Walsh assistant principal.

the students of Bishop Walsh provided volunteer services to Friends Aware. During the past year, BW and Friends Aware

collaborated on many volunteer projects to give back to the community. Together they created care packages and wrote letters that were sent to our overseas troops, made dog biscuits for the animal shelter, made potpourri sachets and wind chimes for the Allegany County Nursing home, and made bookmarks for the children's reading groups at the Allegany County Libraries.

Employee of the Year was awarded to **Wayne Hedrick**, community development specialist, for his exceptional performance and dedication. Wayne was also recognized for 25 Years of Service during the ceremony.



Wayne Hedrick, 2010 FAI Employee of the Year



FAI Community Learning Services

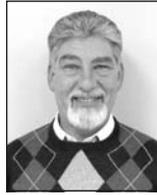
The Life Enrichment Center (LEC) recently received FAI Board approval to provide a new service called **Community Learning Services**. This service is offered through the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and falls under COMAR regulations for Day and Vocational programs. DDA approval is pending and is expected by spring. The service is for individuals who are interested in receiving a majority of their services in the community. Community Learning Services will be provided in integrated environments where people have opportunities to connect with and participate with other community members. Persons interested may include those who are retired, employed in the community less than four hours per day, or who would like to explore varying or alternate employment goals. This service is different from traditional Day and Vocational services in that a majority of the 30-hour service week will take place in integrated community activities, and focus on job development, self-improvement, and health/well-being. Staff ratios will be no more than one staff to four individuals, unless a one to one staffing ratio has been allotted. This service was approved on a trial basis for one group of four individuals over the next year. The service will be discussed in advance with the parents/caregivers of the persons selected. The LEC director will report to the board on the progress, with a plan to provide this service to additional groups in 2012.

Friends Aware Contributors

Thank You for Your Generous Donations!

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- Virginia Lloyd-Magee
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- Donald Pressman
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- Patrick & Mirjhana Buck
- J. Rowland Circle of Melvin UMC
- Classy Chassis Car Club
- Elliott Memorial UMW
- CHP Truck & Bus, Inc.
- GFWC Western Maryland Community Club

New and Returning FAI Board Members



Harry Haag — Harry is a newly elected board member. He has been involved with the agency for many years as a parent; his son receives Friends Aware Services. He is currently a board member and youth sports chairman of the Cumberland Valley Optimist Club, and a Special Olympics volunteer. Harry is employed as finance and insurance manager at Shaffer Ford.



Rebecca Hadra — Rebecca is a newly elected board member and 2010 graduate of Leadership Allegany. She serves on the Habitat for Humanity volunteer committee, the Allegany County Workforce Investment Board, and the Community Legacy Steering Committee for the City of Cumberland. Rebecca is employed at Allegany College of Maryland as director of professional development.



Pamela Kauffman — Pamela is newly elected to the board of directors. Pam's daughter receives services from Friends Aware. She has been a longtime volunteer for Allegany County Special Olympics, as well as an active participant in the annual "Hooley Plunge." She participates in the Mother's March for the March of Dimes, and the "Day of Caring and Sharing." Pam is also employed at the Joseph S. Massie Unit as a unit secretary.



Susan Lloyd Lattimore — Susan is newly elected to the board of directors. Susan's brother has attended Friends Aware for the past 35 years. She is a long-time special educator, reading specialist/professional developmental trainer, and faculty associate for John Hopkins University. Susan has been the director of partnership between Baltimore City Schools and UMBC for the past 5 years.



Michael Llewellyn — Michael is a returning board member, serving on the FAI board of director's since 2009. Michael is an attorney with the law office of Geppert, McMullen, Paye & Getty. He serves on the Allegany County Board of Education and is an adjunct professor at Allegany College of Maryland.



Shawn Golden-Llewellyn — Shawn is a returning board member, serving on the FAI board of director's since 2009. Shawn is a mental health therapist, recently earning her PhD in counseling psychology. She also serves on the board of directors for the Allegany County Child Advocacy Center.



FAI Receives Donation

Friends Aware recently received a donation from Classy Chassis Car Club. Shown (L to R) are Rick Dunn, Wade Phillips, and Jennie Myers.

Steve Huff is Quarterly Winner of LEC Achievement Award

When the Training Center and the Work Development Program (WDP) were combined into one component—The Life Enrichment Center (LEC)—staff revised the “Quarterly Trainee Award Recipient” program, which had been part of the former WDP for many years, into the new “LEC Achievement Award.” Any individual who attends the LEC is eligible to be nominated for this award. Staff nominates individuals based on: attendance, personal performance, safety awareness, IP progress and/or social and work interaction.

The recognition program was initiated to acknowledge all levels of accomplishments by program participants, regardless of their abilities or work skill level. The award was intended to be an incentive and positive experience for every individual, based on their accomplishments, rather than a competition between each other.

Each month the Award Committee selects the Recipient of the Month from the nominations received. This recipient receives a Certificate of Recognition, their picture on the LEC Recognition Board, and lunch out with the staff member who nominated them. The three monthly recipients in each quarter are then eligible for the Quarterly Award. The quarterly recipient receives a zippered, hooded sweatshirt with the FAI logo and their embroidered name, a Certificate, and recognition

in the “FAI Info” Newsletter and on the LEC Recognition Board.

Steve Huff is the Quarterly Award recipient for December 2010. Steve was nominated and received the monthly award for December, joining October’s winner, Jody Washington, and November’s winner, Brad Shirey. Steve is currently in his 16th year of employment at Country Club Mall. He is currently working five days per week for a vacationing co-worker, but typically works three days per week for most of the year. His supervisor, Wayne Rugh, had nothing but positive comments in regard to Steve’s work performance. Steve also attends Area 6 of the Life Enrichment Center the remaining two days of the week, where he works on available contract work and assists with routine maintenance. Steve enjoys gardening and has assisted with Friends Aware’s culinary herbs sales at the Farmer’s Market during the seasonal months.

Steve, along with his canine best friend “Scruffy,” resides in his own home, with the support of family members. Steve is well-known for his positive attitude, his quiet demeanor, and his courteous and polite manner. We congratulate Steve on this accomplishment and are proud to have him as a representative of the agency and as a friend.



Steve Huff

Watercolor Class



Dottie Winner, local artist and Friends Aware board member, recently volunteered to instruct a group of Friends Aware individuals in the art of watercolor. Mrs. Winner supplied the group with the basic materials to design Christmas cards and instructed them in the proper technique for using the colors to enhance their drawing. Approximately 20 individuals participated in the activity which was held during the afternoon blended group time period.

Chocolate Dipping at the LEC



Tony Wagoner and Jody Washington enjoying the festivities.



Jane Eaton assisting Linda Moses at the chocolate fountain.



Friends Aware Partners with Allegany College of Maryland

Jennie Myers received her certification from Allegany College of Maryland for the completion of Child Care I and II. She is pursuing a career in child care.

Ringing Bells



FAI Bell Ringers "doing the most good" for the Salvation Army are (L to R) Jennifer Beeman, Kim Gnegy, Ed Whitaker, and Brenda Hayhurst.

Toys for Happiness

Friends Aware supported Toys for Happiness by holding a "Toy Drive" and wrapping gifts for donations at the Country Club Mall. The FAI Team raised \$200 and several barrels of toy donations for the cause.



Front Row (L to R): JoAnne Wilt, Jaime Gordon and Holly McDonald. Back Row (L to R): Matt Smith and Robin Kerr.

"The Friendliest Place I've Ever Worked"

When asked to write something for our newsletter from the perspective of a new employee, I jumped at the opportunity, because I love to write and love working here! Like most, I was pretty nervous on a new job; especially the first day or two. But from the moment I walked into the door, I felt at home. I was greeted by Lois, and then Judy, and from that moment on I knew I was in the right place. Lois took me around and even gave me a little tour of where to find office supplies and more importantly... the coffee and the rest room.



Michelle Thomas, FAI Financial Assistant

Friends Aware has to be the "friendliest" place I've ever worked. I don't know if that's a coincidence or not since the name has "Friends" in it... but it holds true! Within the first week or two, I had many employees pop into my office to introduce themselves and to welcome me aboard. And then, about a month or so after I started, a few even came in to tell me that they heard I was doing a wonderful job. Who would have ever expected that? Not me because it's never happened before! But what a pleasant surprise! There was even a particular payroll week that was very stressful to me, and during that time I had employees asking me if I was okay. Amazing grace—that's what I'm finding here!

Like most people on a new job, I was overwhelmed at the beginning. It was clear at the onset that there was a lot to learn, including a lot of names and faces. Travis took me on a tour of the Life Enrichment Center right after I started and he explained that it was all pretty much arranged in a circle. I was glad to hear that since my head was spinning when we finished from meeting so many wonderfully nice people in such a short time.

I am from Cumberland and have lived here most of my life, but was never completely aware of all the services that Friends Aware offers, or that we have staff working in the community at businesses like Superfos, etc. I do recall that my aunt, Patty Brinkman, loved it here and now I know why! I have always dreamt of finding a job where I felt like I was making a difference in our fair city, and now that I have one, I feel blessed. I realize that I'm just the one paying the bills and doing the paychecks, but I finally feel like I am part of something big. Now I get to wake up and go to work with a team of professionals that take their jobs to heart and work together, not only to get the job done, but to get it done the best that it can be done!



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