

# Woods'WORLD

A photograph of two young men with Prader-Willi Syndrome. They are sitting on a low wall or ledge, smiling and laughing. The man on the left is wearing a blue button-down shirt and blue jeans. The man on the right is wearing an orange polo shirt with a small bird logo on the chest and blue jeans. They are both wearing glasses. In the background, there is a house, a fence, and some bushes.

**Best Friends:**  
Living with  
Prader-Willi Syndrome

**Excellence**  
**Exemplified**  
Core Values  
in Action

**Friday Frank**

# Best Friends: Living with Prader-Willi Syndrome

For most of us, it is hard to imagine eating a complete dinner and being hungry as soon as the plate is cleared from the table. But that's what it is like for people with Prader-Willi Syndrome, a complex genetic condition that is typically characterized by low muscle tone, cognitive disabilities, behavioral problems, and insatiable hunger. Combined with a slowed metabolism, people with Prader-Willi Syndrome want to eat constantly which can lead to excessive weight gain and life-threatening obesity.

Woods Services residents Jason Speer, 40, and Shawn Savitz, 42, struggle with PWS and their families



## WOODS' WORLD

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know all too well the challenges. From trying to take food away to locking cabinets, there were difficulties in family functioning, communication problems and an increased number of conflicts. After being unable to help them at home, Jason and Shawn were referred to Woods Services because of the specialized PWS program. That was almost 20 years ago.

The PWS program at Woods Services was established in the mid-1980s with a few referrals from New Jersey. Individuals with PWS lived with others who did not have the diagnosis until there were enough people to open a residence just for them. According to Sue Campbell, M.Ed., Residential Director, Woods Services, current residents come from a number of states including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, West Virginia, Washington and Oklahoma.

"We provide an individualized fast-response approach to the treatment needs of children and adults with PWS," explained Campbell. "We are the largest

**program for PWS in the area, and the only program specifically for PWS that serves children under 21 years of age in Pennsylvania.**

The program's components include:

- Health monitoring of the residents by nursing staff and physicians
- Weight loss and support with maintaining a healthy weight
- Strict control over diets and teaching of healthy food options
- Daily exercise
- Development of social skills

Campbell said that Jason and Shawn have both come a long way since they entered Woods. "They each had their own specific behavioral issues and at times in their younger years, were out of control. While they still have some behavioral challenges from time to time, they both have made major progress in problem-solving, patience and self-control. They have jobs at Wood's workshop (TWE), are active in the local church and also work at the Yellow Daffodil Flower and Gift Shop kiosk at the Neshaminy Mall. They take great pride in their

salesmanship and their independence during that time. They have also participated in our annual 'Run for Woods' fundraiser held in May."

Jason and Shawn have thrived at Woods and have developed a special bond. They first shared a room, but now each have their own room adjacent to each other. Along with their daily routines of work, exercise and meal time, the two enjoy playing video games and taking a trip to the casino to play the slot machines.

"We are like brothers, wherever Jason goes, I go and we look out for each other," said Shawn.

Jason added, "Over the years we have had our ups and downs, but we work it out and support one another. When we go home to visit our families, we call each other every day."

The results of the program speak for themselves. When in the program and living at Woods, the success rate is 100%. "Everyone loses weight and for the most part, everyone has a drop in aggressive behaviors or other behaviors that might have led to their referrals, although those issues still exist," added Campbell.

And the parents of PWS children can't sing the praises of the program enough. "Our prayers were answered," said Jason's mother, Sara Curtan. "Woods was not Jason's original placement, he had been in other placements without success. Life definitely got better. Woods has the magic when it comes to providing a life for individuals with PWS. Our family firmly believes this."

Shawn's mother, Rose Savitz, echoes her sentiments. "When Shawn went to live at Woods, both his and our worlds changed completely. Both his size and behavior have been under control with medication and a tailored diet. Shawn is very happy at Woods and tells us that often. For Shawn's future, I would like him to stay at Woods where he has a safe place that understands his every need. Woods has been a place of security and peace for all of us."

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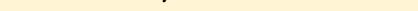
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## What is PWS?

Prader-Willi Syndrome, named after two doctors who began writing about it in the 1950's, is a complex genetic disorder rooted in chromosome 15 and occurs once in every 12,000-15,000 births. Although considered a "rare" disorder, PWS is one of the most common conditions seen in genetic clinics and is the most common genetic cause of obesity that has been identified to date.

PWS disrupts the normal functions of a portion of the brain called the hypothalamus, which controls hunger and thirst and releases hormones that prompt the release of other substances responsible for growth and sexual development. Individuals with PWS develop an insatiable appetite and chronic overeating that result in rapid weight gain. People with PWS typically have intellectual and/or developmental disabilities or behavioral problems.

Signs and symptoms of Prader-Willi Syndrome generally occur in multiple phases. Signs that may be present from birth include poor muscle tone and failure to thrive. In childhood and adulthood, symptoms include food cravings and weight gain, intellectual disabilities, behavior problems and sleep disorders.

If left untreated, PWS can put those with the condition at risk for medical problems including heart disease, sleep apnea, type 2 diabetes and stroke.

# Woods Continues Growth with New Social Enterprise



A social enterprise is an organization or initiative that marries the social mission of a non-profit or government program with the market-driven approach of a business.

– Social Enterprise Alliance

The beautiful drawings on the BeechTree product labels will catch your eye. The luscious scents of the line's body washes, body lotions, hand sanitizers, and soaps will awaken your senses. The story behind Woods' brand new work opportunity will warm your heart.

BeechTree's line is produced, bottled, labeled, packaged and shipped by individuals with brain injuries who are receiving services at Beechwood NeuroRehab, a program of Woods Services.

"In the past year, BeechTree has been transformed from one of five work units in our Clubhouse into a social enterprise that employs people with brain injury to work in a community-integrated business," said Dan LaValla,

Director of Clubhouse and Vocational Services at Beechwood.

As part of their rehabilitation, employees work alongside BeechTree Manager Chris Rushforth to prepare and ship orders all across the country.

"Coming to work every day is an inspiration. Our workers put their heart and soul into each batch of BeechTree product," said Rushforth. "Their attitude is always positive."

Rushforth isn't just the BeechTree Manager, he is also a faithful user of the products. "I can say that our product quality is something I confidently stand behind," he said. "Our lotion leaves skin noticeably soft for multiple days."

The majority of BeechTree's orders are placed through the company's website [www.beechtreeproducts.org](http://www.beechtreeproducts.org). According to LaValla, online sales have steadily increased since the website was launched in September 2016.



BeechTree stocks their products at the Yellow Daffodil Flower and Gift Shop in the Pine Watson Shopping Center in Langhorne and are looking to move into others shops in the community. The BeechTree group also attends several markets and festivals each season to spread the word about their inspiring community-integrated business.

BeechTree bath and body products offer popular scents like Sweet Pea and Fields of Lavender, as well as a few signature scents like Panda's Paradise, which mimics the "early morning aroma of a rain forest bursting with life". The line also offers gift sets, customizable party favors, and even a canine cleanse for dogs. To learn more about BeechTree or to place an order visit [www.beechtreeproducts.org](http://www.beechtreeproducts.org).



# Grant Update

Woods Services has recently been awarded several grants in support of some of our core programs:

## Education

Grants received from **Foundations Community Partnership** (\$9,600) and **The Charter Foundation** (\$6,400) provide our students with 11 Epson projectors, technology that is very similar to interactive white boards, but are more economical and better suited for our classrooms. Woods has also been awarded \$150,000 from the **Pennsylvania Department of Education** in support of the new Brookwood School, which opened in October 2016. An extension of Woods' Educational Program, Brookwood gives Woods the capacity to offer a transitional education program that provides pre-vocational work-based learning and pre-employment training to students with disabilities, increasing their chance of a successful, seamless transition to integrated, competitive employment post graduation.

## Transportation

The **Pennsylvania Department of Transportation** (PennDOT) has approved a \$128,000 grant to support the purchase of three wheelchair-accessible vehicles. This grant covers 80 percent of the total cost and is from a federal capital assistance program that provides transportation services for people with disabilities and the elderly.

## Vocational Training

Grants from the **TD Charitable Foundation**, the giving arm of TD Bank (\$10,000) and **The Eamon Foundation** (\$22,682) provide employees at the Yellow Daffodil Flower Shop with a higher level of professional training, resulting in a more professional and productive environment. We see this as a stepping stone toward further developing our competitive business in the community that offers integrated employment at fair wages to a larger number of people with disabilities.



## Health, Wellness and Recreation

\$6,000 from **Foundations Community Partnership** offers more exercise opportunities for children and adolescents with special needs. Increasing their level of physical activity and teaching them self-regulation strategies and healthier choices can lead to a decrease in negative behaviors.

\$7,500 from the **Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund** makes possible dance classes for senior citizens that will improve their overall health and enhance their quality of life.

\$4,000 from **Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.** supports weekly yoga sessions for people diagnosed with Prader-Willi Syndrome, which will improve their physical, mental and behavioral health.

\$4,000 from the **Ruth Camp Campbell Foundation** will provide adults with trips to the Poconos and the New Jersey shore.



## Therapy Dogs Visit Woods

Meet Pansy. She is an adorable chocolate lab therapy dog that spends time at our Holland Enrichment Center each week with her wonderful owner, Jan! Holland members enjoy petting Pansy, giving her treats, and holding her leash.





## Soap Box Derby a Big Hit

Ray Mongillo and Bucks County Super Kids Classic brought the third annual Soap Box Derby Race to Woods in October. Mongillo and his crew came in days ahead of time to set up the course and make sure the track was clear and ready to go! They brought volunteers in to build the ramps, set the course and run the radios during the races. They also brought the drivers and really cool soap box cars so that each of our residents could ride along in the passenger seat and race down the hill.

"Our residents were able to feel the wind on their faces as they raced downhill with the crowd cheering them on. They were able to ride at least two times and choose who they would race against," said Beth O'Toole, Assistant Director of Mollie Woods Recreation and Aquatics. "We had some really close races but everyone had a blast racing against their friends! We also made a lot of new friends with the drivers of the cars. They are so great to us!"



## Safety First: Larry Harvey Celebrates 50 Years at Woods



Today, the average person changes jobs 10 to 15 times in his or her lifetime which usually means a change in employer. Fifty years ago, Larry Harvey was hired at Woods as a recreation staff member not really certain of what he wanted to do with his life. Larry also had a lot of career changes, but what is different about Larry, is that they were all with Woods.

Last July marked 50 years since Larry took his first of 7 jobs at Woods. In addition to being a recreation employee, he was a child development worker, teacher, residential manager, residential supervisor, training manager, and finally, his current job, as Safety Manager.

Everyone at Woods knows Larry. He teaches an iconic fire safety class in Woods' orientation program and leads the mandatory annual refresher course. What is memorable about his orientation class is that staff get a chance to extinguish a real fire.

The knowledge that staff gain from Larry is not only used to ensure safety at Woods. Many staff implement fire drills at home and change the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. He is credited with saving the life of Woods' long-time Mollie Woods Recreation Supervisor Esther Fagan. She returned home one day and the carbon monoxide detector inside her home was sounding an alarm. Rather than staying inside her home to check it out, she proceeded outside and called 911. The firefighters later told her, that the level of CO inside her home was so high, that she would have passed out and died had she not exited her house immediately.

Safety is a 24/7 concern for Larry. He is the Captain of the Fire Safety Police for the Langhorne-Middletown Fire Company, and coordinates the fire prevention and community events for the fire company. He is often seen at Woods at all hours of the day and night doing what he does best. He arranges fire drills to occur across all three shifts and participates in every one of them. He doesn't cut himself much slack. If he attends a fire drill at 2:00 a.m., he will still be in the office early the next morning.

His former boss, Dawn Diamond says, "I've had the opportunity to work with Larry for the past 15 years. Larry exemplifies the mission and vision of Mollie Woods and the Woods organization. He works around the clock to ensure the safety and well-being of the staff and individuals we serve; coming in at all hours of the day and night if needed."

Larry was recognized by Woods during a luncheon held in his honor last July and was presented with numerous citations and lauded for his dedication to safety. Larry's wife Pat accompanied him at the event. Pat retired last year after working 49 years at Woods. Larry has no plans for retirement, which comes as no surprise to those who know him.

# Woods Board Elects New Members

The Board of Trustees of Woods is pleased to announce the appointment of our new members and the election of new officers.



**Yelena Barychev**

Elected last year were Yelena Barychev and Ron Davis. **Ms. Barychev** is a partner in the Corporate, M&A, and Securities practice group at Blank Rome, LLP in Philadelphia representing U.S. and European companies in connection with business and corporate law matters, corporate governance issues and executive compensation. She also advises nonprofit organizations. Ms. Barychev is a member of the advisory committee of the Middle Atlantic Chapter of the Society for Corporate Governance, and is on the Board of Directors of the Forum of Executive Women and chairs the Forum's Women in Executive Leadership and Governance Committee.



**Ron Davis**

**Mr. Davis** is Chief Diversity Officer and Director of Community Development of Parx Casino and Racing. Mr. Davis has also distinguished himself as a former professional athlete in the National Football League after being drafted by the San Francisco 49ers in 1972 followed by contracts with several teams including the St. Louis Cardinals and Atlanta Falcons. Mr. Davis is affiliated with numerous business hospitality and community groups and serves on several Boards of Directors. Mr. Davis is an elected member of the Board of Directors of the National Football League Former Players Association. The Association governs the activities and benefits for over 6,000 former players. Mr. Davis is a Trustee of Mother Bethel AME Church and is a lifetime member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.



**Carolyn Purcell Reichenbach**

Elected in November were Carolyn Reichenbach and Timothy Titus.

**Ms. Reichenbach** is a community volunteer and family advocate for people with disabilities. Her brother is currently receiving services through Woods. Until 2007, Ms. Reichenbach was a lawyer with Drinker Biddle and Reath in Princeton, NJ, focusing her practice on estate and tax planning and advising public charities and private foundations.



**Timothy Titus**

**Mr. Titus** is a Regional Developer with The Entrepreneur's Source and AdviCoach, providing coaching services to individuals interested in exploring

business ownership opportunities, and helping small business owners grow and improve the performance of their businesses. He has extensive leadership and business management experience from many years in the financial services industry. From 1987 – 2009, Mr. Titus held several key leadership roles in the insurance division of HSBC including chief risk officer, chief compliance officer and chief financial officer. Prior to HSBC, Mr. Titus worked for several years in public accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant.



**Kevin Sheetz**

**Mr. Kevin Sheetz** was elected Chair of the Board. Mr. Sheetz is the CEO of Powerlytics, a company headquartered in Doylestown that he co-founded. Powerlytics provides the most comprehensive,

accurate and granular consumer and business financial data available in the U.S.

Corporations and financial services providers are using Powerlytics' data to manage risk, discover potential markets, drive corporate strategy, benchmark performance and enhance both business and consumer target marketing.



**Barry Sharer**

Also elected were Vice-Chair **Barry Sharer** of Sharer Petree Brotz & Snyder, a full-service public accounting firm with office in Voorhees, NJ and Malvern, PA and



**Heather Fehn**

Secretary **Heather Fehn** who is the Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of at the College of New Jersey.

# Friday Frank Puts Others First



Everyone at Woods knows Frank Mannino, and when asked about him, they usually respond, “he’s a great guy!” Four years ago when he came to Woods at age 16, Frank admits no one said that about him. He also confesses that had he not come to Woods when he did, he would likely be serving time in prison, or worse.

When Frank lived at home, he hung with “the wrong crowd” and spent much of his time doing things that he is not proud of. He started drinking alcohol in his early teens and by the time he was 16, he was considered a juvenile delinquent. “I wasn’t thinking about the future, I didn’t care at all about school, I only cared about hanging out with my friends,” claims Frank. After he repeated the 2nd year of 9th grade, he was referred to the Woodlands Program for Children with Challenging Behaviors.

Woods excels at helping kids like Frank learn to control their bad behaviors and employ positive coping mechanisms to help them work through difficult situations. Frank responded so well during his first month at Woods, that he was able to return home for a brief visit for Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, the old friends were still there and he slipped back into old behaviors and both he and his family realized he still had a long way to go before he could return home permanently.

Fast forward four years and that “long way to go” is here. Frank has become a model citizen at Woods. He has excelled in his studies and passed all of his New York Regents exams. He attends school for an hour each day and spends the remainder of his daytime hours working with Woods’ Maintenance Department learning various trades. He is currently being trained by Woods’ HVAC technicians. Frank is really appreciative of the maintenance crew for treating him like one of the team and teaching him many skills that he will be able to apply to a job when he returns home.

Frank has also worked at the Common Grounds, Woods’ café, where he learned to cook, run the register, and take inventory. In addition, he worked as a Shift Leader at Domino’s and ran the store when the manager was not there. He is thankful to Woods for enabling him to try a wide variety of jobs.

Not only is Frank an excellent worker, he is also a self-starter. Frank was staffing the Common Grounds one Saturday while Woods was holding a Soapbox Derby behind the cafe. The Common Grounds opened that day solely to serve event attendees. Frank was frustrated that none of the guests came inside to purchase food, so he decided to bring the food outside to the event! His food cart was swamped by customers.

Frank is well-known among students and residents at Woods. At school, he initiated “Friday Frank” during which he would wear a costume and run in and out of classrooms at Crestwood Education in order to make people smile and laugh. “Something I

**“He is a caring, loyal person who loves his family. He is a role model for the students who are in his classes working towards their diplomas.”**



## “Something I learned here at Woods is that I need to sometimes put other people first.”

learned here at Woods is that I need to sometimes put other people first,” he explained. Frank creates many of the costumes himself and often chooses a character that he knows a particular student will like.

He is a “big brother” to many residents in the Woodlands Program. He often mediates arguments and uses his charm to help diffuse heated situations by redirecting individuals’ attention. Staff will sometimes call for him to come to a particular home to visit with someone who is having a difficult time.

There are many people to whom Frank attributes his success at Woods. His teacher Cindy Hutchinson “pushed me to the edge a few times, pushed me to my limit, but I’m glad that she did,” Frank stated. “Frank has so much potential,” said Cindy. “He is a caring, loyal person who loves his family. He is a role model for the students who are in his classes working towards their diplomas. Every time he wanted to give up, I would not let him. I kept reminding him that there was a light at the end of the tunnel. When he tried to give up, I would go to his Woods’ residence to follow up and we would have a study session right then and there. I am so proud of Frank and I wish him all the best for his future.”

He also appreciated the support he received from Joe Campbell, Assistant Director at Crestwood Education; Residential Counselors: Derrell Garrick, “Big Sam” Morse, Tony Baker; Woodlands’ residential management staff, and Wayne Presley, Woodlands’ Recreation Supervisor, who always made time for Frank when he needed to talk.

“My parents never gave up on me no matter how bad it got,” he admits while talking about those he most appreciates. Frank plans to return home to his family very soon and will look for a job. He hopes that college is in his future and would like to major in business and communications. He likes the construction work he has been doing for Woods and hopes that he can one day run a construction company. We have every confidence that he will.

## All in the Family

Receptions were recently held in New York and Langhorne for families and guardians of individuals being served by Woods to facilitate discussions around Woods’ Strategic Directions Plan 2017-2020. The strategic directions center on the four themes of:

- I. Mission-driven growth and improved services through Woods for Life Continuum
- II. Employee engagement
- III. Enterprise shared services
- IV. Strategic position, policy and thought leadership

The meetings focused heavily on Woods advocacy and policy efforts and how families could become involved. “It was abundantly clear that the new president and the administrative staff have our loved ones best interest in mind, and fight for them with a passion,” expressed Annie Mullock, whose son Will receives supports from Woods. “I was unaware of underlying issues that they fight on a daily basis to keep the doors open. In my mind, Woods has been Utopia because my son has been unable to be supported properly anywhere else. At Woods he is happy, thriving and very well cared for. I could get on board with the direction they want to take Woods and am happy to stand side-by-side with them to do so. I know that Woods is not perfect, but what is? They do their best and they achieve. I pray that my son can be here as long as he wants. I can finally sleep at night knowing my son Will is happy.”

Additional receptions are being scheduled and will be communicated by mail and email to families. Families may also begin to receive emails concerning specific advocacy efforts that are underway. If Woods does not currently communicate with you via email, please consider providing your email address to Woods Communications Manager, Katie Carnevale at [katie.carnevale@woods.org](mailto:katie.carnevale@woods.org).

# Woods Makes Mark in Latest Edition of Social Innovations Journal



As the health and human services field moves to a model of person-centered home and community-based supports, innovative solutions to facilitate a higher quality of life have not kept pace. Similarly, people with complex medical concerns and serious behavioral challenges have been treated with a one-size fits all model that doesn't address their complicated needs.

Funding cannot keep pace with the needs. Waiting lists for services

often exceed the number of people receiving them. Because of this, families are seeking innovative programs, devices and services to help them maintain care at home.

There is much room for improvement across the board. Woods leads the way in innovative workforce development and technologies that support people at home and at work. Woods Services was in the spotlight at the Social Innovations Journal (SIJ) launch of issue 32: Social Impact and Innovative Models to Support Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Their Families Throughout the Lifespan.

Keynote speakers included Woods' own Dr. Scott Spreat who presented a brief history of the field.



He also presented a study concerning the employment of people with disabilities both in workshops and in the community that showed a significant drop in employment of people with I/DD when workshops are closed.

Woods CEO, Tine Hansen-Turton, who is the co-founder of the Social Innovations Journal, moderated a panel discussion with topics covering aging in place for people with I/DD; technology improvements

that facilitate quality of life enhancements for people with I/DD who have physical, cognitive, emotional and communication challenges; different kinds of supported living arrangements for people with I/DD; and the harmful impact of the American Health Care Act (AHCA) on Medicaid and Medicare that many of our staff and the individuals we serve rely on.

Numerous staff from Woods and our affiliates submitted articles for this issue of the SIJ that speak to the innovative programs and supports we offer. Please take the time to read their articles and thank them for the great work that they do! You can read their articles at <http://www.socialinnovationsjournal.org/editions/current-edition>.



## The Spirit of Giving

A HUGE thank you to all of the individuals, families, and groups that participated in our Secret Santa program! Because of your generosity, more than 300 Woods' resident wish lists were fulfilled this holiday season! Special thanks to George School, Newtown Athletic Club, God's Love Church and Neshaminy Kids Club; and the Queen of the Universe Youth Group, who helped us to wrap hundreds of gifts.



*The Woods group on the steps of the Capitol.*

## My Choice, My Work



On March 13, the voices of 1,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their caregivers shouting "My Choice, My Work" resonated throughout the rotunda of the capitol building in Harrisburg. The rally was the culminating event of an effort to convince the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Office of Developmental Programs to change its proposed regulations concerning sheltered workshops.

ODP's original proposal called for people with I/DD to spend 75 percent of their work time in integrated community activities. Those activities could include work, volunteering or recreation. Many of those opposing this change believe that the eventual goal was meant to close sheltered workshops.

Woods believes that anyone who is able to and chooses to work in a more integrated setting, should be supported in preparing for and finding such a position. However, the choice belongs with the individual receiving services. Many felt that the state was trying to dictate the way people should work and live.

Through advocacy work aided by several PA legislators, namely Representatives Frank Farry and Gene DiGirolamo, and Senator Tommy Tomlinson, the state reduced its in-community time to 25 percent. Representative DiGirolamo, who chairs the Human Services Committee for the House, held a hearing the same day as the rally and asked the heads of DHS and ODP to answer questions concerning the proposal. Several others were invited to provide testimony including Tine Hansen-Turton, Woods President and CEO and Dr. Scott Spreat, President of Woods Programs and Chief Research Officer.



*Individuals with I/DD from The Woods Enterprises (TWE) and Brian's House Enterprises (BHE) and their support staff who attended the rally posed for a photo in the rotunda.*

# EXCELLENCE EXEMPLIFIED

## The Mollie Award

*Woods' most prestigious award is given to an employee who demonstrates the utmost commitment to the overall mission and ideals of Woods.*



**DORIE JACKSON**

*Residential Shift Leader, Mollie Woods*

Dorie Jackson exemplifies Woods' Core Values. She is extremely dedicated and does not stop moving. Her dedication to the individuals she serves cannot be measured. For years Dorie worked as the Shift Leader for the Birchwood and Buttonwood homes where Woods' youngest residents lived. Dorie did everything possible to ensure the homes were clean and cozy and children felt safe, loved and respected. She was instrumental in organizing and ensuring a smooth transition of individuals and their belongings during a recent move to their new home, Kinderwood, at Woods. Dorie continues her stellar work at Kinderwood. She does so many things that aren't asked of her and when things need to be done, she gets them done. She has worked at Woods Services for 32 years.

## The Phyllis Gross Award

*Established in memory of Phyllis Gross, these awards are presented to four employees in direct care positions in recognition of exemplary service and dedication in their work with Woods' residents.*

**Matthew Greener**, Teacher,  
*Mollie Woods Education*

**Angela Perkins**, Residential Counselor,  
*Upper Lakeshore*

**Kelly March**, Clinician,  
*Woodlands Clinical*

**James Clayton**, Residential Counselor,  
*Wildwood*

**Dennis Curran, Jr**, Recreation Leader,  
*Woodlands*

**Brandon Scott**, Recreation  
Coordinator, *Mollie Woods Recreation*

**Craig McClellan**, Life Skills Trainer,  
*Beechwood NeuroRehab*

Dedicated, compassionate employees form the cornerstone of the Woods Exceptional Care Model. Each year, we take time to recognize those employees whose extraordinary work has gone above and beyond and who are outstanding examples of our Core Values in action. The following awards were presented at this year's event—

## The President's Award for Excellence

*Awarded to an employee in a management or supervisory position whose consistent use of sound management practices has contributed to the continued success of Woods.*



**CLARA ARIZMENDI**

*Secretary, Woodlands*

The President's award has typically been given to people who have initiated new programs, instituted new approaches, or in some way advanced the welfare of the corporation as a whole. This year, we acknowledged someone whose support for the individuals we serve, families, and treatment teams has made Woods Services a better place to live and a better place to work.

While Clara's job title is secretary, and while she is a fine secretary, her performance as a secretary has nothing to do with the award with which she was bestowed. Clara goes beyond the secretarial job description to become the bridge between our treatment teams and many of our non-English speaking families. Functioning as a translator, advocate, and essentially a social worker, Clara is an essential cog in the operation of our company. She also demonstrates a capability at the near impossible task of herding psychiatrists and ensuring that they arrive at appointed reviews. Clara has worked at Woods for 28 years.

## Special Recognition Award

*Presented to dedicated employees for exemplary service and their commitment to Woods.*

**Tiffany Adams**, Registered Nurse,  
*Mollie Woods Nursing*

**Sue Beck**, Dental Support Specialist,  
*Dental Services*

**Kathleen Beers**, Vocational Program  
Specialist, *TWE*

**Tracy Brown**, Senior Physical  
Therapist, *Beechwood NeuroRehab*

**Abraham Kamara**, Residential  
Manager, *Woodlands*

## Support Services Award

*Presented to employees in non-direct care positions for exceptional dedication and service to Woods.*

**Phil Gabel**, Network Administrator,  
*Information Systems*

**Renee Szeliga**, Training Specialist,  
*Employee Training*

**Pamela Shaffer**, Coordinator, Program  
Planning, *Mollie Woods*

**Patricia Lautt**, Accounting Clerk,  
*Finance*

## The Louis Seitter Award

*In honor of Lois Seitter's lengthy service to Woods, this award is presented to a nurse in recognition of outstanding devotion to the job, professional skills and dedication to the individuals we serve. The recipient is nominated by the nursing staff.*

**Samuel Harmon**, Licensed Practical  
Nurse, *Woodlands Nursing*

### **The Beverly Stabler Award**

*Established in honor of Beverly A. Stabler, this award is presented to a Beechwood employee in a direct care position who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to fostering the utmost in education, training and overall care for individuals served by Beechwood NeuroRehab.*

**Arleen Hite, Residential Shift Leader, Beechwood NeuroRehab**

### **The Mindy Joi Yatsko Award**

*This award, in memory of Mindy Joi Yatsko, is presented to an employee who has expanded his or her horizons by pursuing further education, volunteering for special events run by Woods, or being active in the local community. The recipient typically is an employee who has been with Woods for three years or less.*

**David Thomas, Residential Counselor, Mollie Woods**

### **Years of Service Awards:**

**- 50 -**

**Lawrence Harvey, Safety Manager**

**- 40 -**

**George Gimmi, Head Cook, Food Services**

**Sue Campbell, Residential Director, Mollie Woods**

**- 35 -**

**Stephanie Dorsey, Life Skills Trainer, 135 S. Richardson**

**Barbara Klatt, Registered Nurse, Mollie Woods Nursing**

**- 30 -**

**Pamela Aldred, Teacher, Mollie Woods Education**

**Jeanine Beverly, Licensed Practical Nurse, Beechwood**

**Valerie Chatelier, Residential Counselor, Brown Hall**

**Lorna Dixon, Teacher's Aide, Mollie Woods Education**

**Denise Funchess, Residential Counselor, Redwood**

**Winifred Jackson, Residential Counselor, Brown Hall**

**Jennifer Johnson, Residential Counselor, Kinderwood**

**Mary Johnson, Life Skills Trainer, 135 S. Richardson**

**Vanessa Moore, Residential Counselor, Heatherwood**

**Sandi Narciso, Assistant Director, Education, Day Program Administration**

**Mary Wilde, Registered Nurse, Mollie Woods Nursing**

**Beatrice Williams, Residential Counselor, Heatherwood**

**-25 -**

**Katrina Abner, Residential Counselor, Redwood**

**Corey Adger, Residential Counselor, Lower Lakeshore**

**Barbara Ashburn, Residential Counselor, Allgair**

**Maria Astorga, Transportation Dispatcher, Transportation**

**Hazel Ballard, Instructional Aide, Holland**

**James Buchanan, Food Services Assistant, Gardner**

**Charles Crist, Adaptive Equipment Specialist, Facilities**

**Michael Herrington, Switchboard Operator, Communications**

**Kenneth Jeter, Residential Counselor, Upper Lakeshore**

**Jo Ann Martone, Registered Physical Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapy**

**Gary Maurer, Director of Food and Nutrition, Food Services**

**Elizabeth Perry, Residential Counselor, Tareyton**

**Evelyn Smith, Residential Counselor, Brown Hall**

To honor Dr. Martin Luther King, ten volunteers from Vanguard gave of their time on Saturday, January 21 to engage with Woods' clients in a variety of activities. Amy Todd, Retirement Education Specialist, summarized the day well:

**"The Vanguard team had a blast at Woods Services! From soccer, to volleyball, to arts and crafts, we enjoyed every second of getting to know the clients (and trying to keep up with them – boy, were they good!). Personally, I have had the pleasure of visiting Woods Services for the past couple of years, and I always look forward to coming back. It is such a welcoming environment, and a truly rewarding experience. Thank you for all that you do!"**



## Out-Of-This-World Experience at the HOLLYWoods: Red Carpet Gala



More than 300 people turned out for the third annual HOLLYWoods: Red Carpet Gala, which was held at The Fuge in Warminster on Saturday, Jan. 14. What started out as a new and unusual location for the Gala (a former naval and astronaut training ground) grew into the perfect venue to gather for this year's theme: celebrating one another's differences.

From soaring aerialists on silks, to a laser light show, to a violinist on stilts, the entertainment was both spectacular

and other worldly. The Woods community came together, accepting one another's differences in the spirit of Jim Cameron's film, "Avatar." But it was the enthusiasm of the residents, families and friends present that made the Gala so exciting this year.

More than \$316,000 was raised for Woods including more than \$150,000 to fund the new Family Center at Willowood. Whether you attended, sponsored, donated, or volunteered, your support helps us to enhance to the

lives of the 675 individuals served by Woods. The challenges in front of us may at times seem daunting, but with your help we are confident that we can not only continue to provide the high level of service that has become our hallmark, but continue to expand educational, vocational, therapeutic and recreational options for those here at Woods.

As Woods' grandparent Dominick Scerbo stated in the special appeal video, "There's no place like home, but (Woods) is as close as it gets."

To view all of the photos from the third annual HOLLYWoods: Red Carpet Gala visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHskMV4wyD>.



Congratulations to Woods' Trustee Alice DeVoe on winning the Philadelphia Social Innovations Journal Board Governance award in

January! We thank Alice for her hard work and dedication to Woods and congratulate her on this well-deserved honor. Alice joined the Woods Board in 2008 and is chair of the Finance & Investments Committee and is a member of the Executive Committee.

**"Ideas are borne out of necessity.  
Innovation is birthed  
from hard work."**  
Alice DeVoe



Several Woods residents participated in the Tiara's Loving Children Pageant, held at the Sheraton Bucks County on March 19. The theme was jungle safari and contestants competed in formal wear, casual wear, pageant theme wear, and dress for a cause. Everyone had a great time and looked amazing in the outfits they chose. Congratulations to Rashaun on being crowned Mr. Bell of the Ball!!

## Coming Soon: Family Center at Willowood



Maintaining family relationships is critical to living a meaningful and fulfilling life. As such, Woods facilitates opportunities to bring individuals and their families together. We regularly provide staff support and transportation for those who are able to travel home by car, train or plane to spend valuable, quality time with their families and friends. Unfortunately, many of our individuals struggle with medical, physical or behavior-related challenges that make it impossible for them to

travel home to visit their families.

We encourage families to visit Woods, especially those with loved ones who cannot travel. As a result, hundreds of families and friends come to Woods each year to visit. Unfortunately, there is little private meeting space on campus. It is not unusual to see an entire family clustered in one bedroom with little to no privacy.

Families have asked for a place where they can share a meal, celebrate a birthday, play games, or just enjoy being together. The cafeteria at Willowood served as the "lodge" for Camp Willowood, opened by our founder, Mollie Woods, in 1926. Since the closing of the camp more than 20 years ago, the building has been used to house administrative offices, but the cafeteria gets little use and is the perfect location for a new Family Center.

The new dining room and kitchen can be used to prepare and eat meals, enjoy birthday cake and hold other family events. The private family rooms will be furnished with couches, chairs and a table so families can enjoy music, TV and conversation. The game room can be used to play foosball, Wii or other video games or board games. It can also be used to entertain siblings. The center is within easy walking distance of two playgrounds, a basketball court, a gym and many of the residences. Ample parking is available near the building.

Once complete later this spring, families and friends may reserve any of the rooms in advance. The center will be a very welcoming place where families and friends can share private time together.

A special thank you to the Joe and Mary Faulkner Family Foundation for contributing a matching gift of \$50,000. This is the second year in a row that they have graciously contributed to our Special Appeal, helping us reach our goal of raising \$150k for the new Willowood Family Center. Thank you also to Mortimer Bates, a former client who donated \$16,000 to the project. Though he now lives in Jacksonville, FL, he has been a very consistent donor to Woods over the last 20 years.

## Thank You Faulkner-Ciocca Dealerships!



During the months of November and December, Beechwood individuals Adam Greene and Lindsay Price and Woods resident Patrick Scotto traveled with the Woods Development Team to several Faulkner-Ciocca Dealerships to personally thank the staff members for their continued support of Woods, especially the Run for Woods.

The success of Run for Woods has largely been a result of the

extraordinary efforts of eight Faulkner-Ciocca dealerships that raised more than \$80,000 in the first year of the event. The following year, nine dealerships raised a record \$96,788 and this spring those nine dealerships hope to raise \$110,000 for Woods!

During these visits, Adam, Lindsay, and Patrick shared their inspirational stories and discussed the impact that Woods has had on their lives. Patrick shared his love of music and big plans for the future, while Adam spoke about the busy independent life he leads with his two jobs. Lindsay told the crowd about the love she has for her job at the Yellow Daffodil Flower and Gift Shop.

For their outstanding effort, the Faulkner-Ciocca Dealerships were presented with the Jane Cowles Award,

Woods' highest honor, at the HOLLYWoods Gala in January. This award for "loyalty, generosity and leadership to Woods Services" is presented annually to the individual, corporation or group that has demonstrated exceptional support of our programs.

You can view Adam, Patrick, and Lindsay's speeches at <http://ow.ly/bwRV309dOFH>.





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