

Community Connections: Exploring and Volunteering in our Community

Community Connections is a community based day support that focuses on community integration and volunteerism. In 1993, we started with a two person team with one support staff. The persons on the team each lived in Pleasant View residential programs.



Now, twenty-two years later, we support 36 individuals in 3 to 5 person teams. Some individuals live at home or in their own apartment while others live in Pleasant View residential programs. We have eight support staff who help the individuals find meaningful volunteer opportunities, most of which are regularly scheduled. The community organizations we help depend on us to be there on time and to get our work done. That doesn't mean we can't have a little fun. The support staff is creative and often need to adapt the job to an individual for complete success. As our teams volunteer, they are building relationships with community members. Most of the time, there is time



in the afternoon to explore the community.

The team pictured, helps at Ridgeway Mennonite Church every Friday. They carefully fold the bulletins and place any additional pages into them as needed. Then they do the same with the children's bulletins. If the church secretary needs any extra tasks completed, she just asks. After they are done, which usually takes two hours, they go for lunch and explore the community. •



Pleasant View's 6th Annual Community Pork BBQ

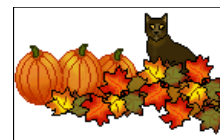
Maynard cooking the BBQ.

Pleasant View held our 6th Annual Community Pork BBQ on September 12, 2015. Due to the weather forecast, we held our event inside our Harrisonburg Day Program. We were happy to find out that the indoor event was even more successful than in previous years. Along with our delicious BBQ meal, we had music by Men of Zion and Friday Night Special, a Theme Basket Raffle, a Bake Sale Extravaganza, Honey and Candle Sales, (Continued)

Pleasant View supporters enjoy the outdoors.



FALL 2015



Supporting Individuals with



and Dave Gullman was on hand to sell and sign his book, *Teachers of the Soul*. We made \$2, 852.75 on the day of the event. That is over \$800 more than the previous year.

We have been trying to make the Pork BBQ a community event. and this seems to be happening more each

year. This year the Broadway High School Football Team and coach helped serve and take meals to the tables. Maynard and Gayle Weaver brought a team of supporters from the Waynesboro and Stuart's Draft area to help cook, serve and package the Pork BBQ. Many Pleasant View programs and Grandma's Pantry donated Theme Baskets for the Raffle. Volunteers from Turner Ashby High School volunteered to take pictures of the event. We had several individuals we support, supporting us on Saturday by volunteering to help clean-up. A Timberville Girl Scout Troop # 332, several staff members, and families donated baked goods for our bake sale. The son of our Community Connection's Coordinator, Wendy Moyers, earned volunteer hours for Boy Scouts by setting up and manning the outdoor games. Verne Leininger again volunteered his Petting Zoo.

Community members, Park View Federal Credit Union and area grocery stores (Sharp Shopper, Red Front, Food Lion and Walmart) made donations to help offset the cost. Many of our Pleasant View employees not only volunteered their



time, but their family members' time as well.

We are grateful for everyone who volunteered, promoted, and attended the BBQ. Please plan on attending next year's 7th Annual Pork

BBQ. It will be on the Saturday after Labor Day: September 10, 2016. It will be during our Pleasant View's 45th Anniversary year. •

Celebrating 30 Years

Nancy Hopkins celebrated her 30 year anniversary at Pleasant View on Friday August 21,



2015 with coworkers, some board members and individuals we support. It is remarkable how much Pleasant View has evolved since she

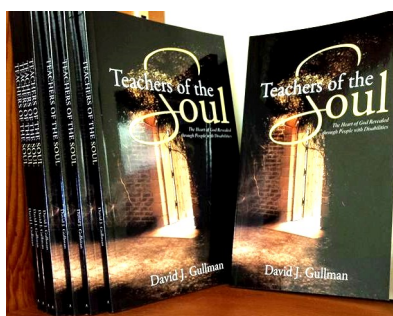
started in 1985. Pleasant View's Harrison House ICF -IID was only a year old when she started.

We celebrate all that Nancy has brought to Pleasant View as Executive Director. When she began as Executive Director, we only had Lee High, Turner House/Supervised Apartments, Broadway Day Program and the Harrison House ICF-IID (with a day program for Harrison House individuals on location). We now have five residences in Broadway, four residences and eight apartments in Harrisonburg, one residence in Dayton, two center based day supports, Community Connections, Supported Employment, and In-Home Services. We also have a Day Support Services building which houses our Social Work and Pastoral Services as well as being the hub of our Harrisonburg day support programs: community and center based. We look forward to many more anniversaries. •

Teachers of the Soul: The Heart of God Revealed through People with Disabilities

By David J. Gullman

A number of years ago I shared with a small group from my experiences with people with disabilities. At the end of our time together several people suggested I write a book. The book *Teachers of the Soul* is the culmination of that effort. In it, I interweave my own experiences as a father of a child with Down Syndrome, stories of the many people



with disabilities whom I have gotten to know through my work at Pleasant View and Faith and Light, and my own theological reflection on the significant role people with disabilities can play in our lives and within our communities of faith.

As I neared completion of the book, I began to realize what noteworthy influence people with intellectual disabilities have had on my life: I cannot imagine a life without the daily interactions I have with them. They continue to be my teachers and to open up areas of personal growth within me. I would like to challenge you to read the book and then to find someone with a disability to whom you can begin relating. Allow God to use that person to teach you about what it means to be human, created in the image of God. If you do this I would love to hear about your experiences. •



Now for Something a Little Different

This summer was full of trips to Camp Easter Seals and Camp Still Meadows, trips to the movies, picnics, parades, fishing, celebrating the 4th of July, attending the fair, and more. Individuals were able to go on trips with their houses and day supports. This is a very important part of life at Pleasant View.



The individuals we support come from varying backgrounds with varying experiences. Some are accustomed to going on family trips and some have never been on a vacation. We support individuals in taking trips in smaller groups or one on one. Two examples of trips that were out of the ordinary this summer were a trip to the beach and a trip to Richmond's Comic Con.



There has been an emphasis on person centered services, but not as much on exploring other aspects of a more "normal" life. This summer two individuals decided they would like to go to the beach for a

vacation. After much planning and finding support staff to go with them, their beach trip became a reality. Each person on the trip learned more about each other and themselves.

When his wife decided to go to the beach with a friend, Brian decided he'd like to go to Comic Con in Richmond. He enjoyed looking at the displays and different costumes and going out to eat, but was content with watching television in the hotel room the rest of the night and leaving the next day.

Finding out what a vacation means to each person is a challenge. Each individual on a trip has his or her own expectations that are often not verbalized. If we are completely honest, this happens in our own families. Through our dedicated support staff, we are learning how to better prepare for these trips and support individuals in picking a vacation that is just right for them. •

Published Quarterly

Executive Director: Nancy Hopkins-Garriss

Consultants: Leadership Team Editor: Pamela Miller

Mark Your Calendars...

Please mark your calendars for a night of good food, music, fellowship and learning more about Pleasant View and the individual we support.

Pleasant View's Fall Banquet will be held:

November 21, 2015
at the Eastern Mennonite
High School Dining Room
At 6:00 pm

The banquet will start at 6:00pm with music, appetizers, and a meal. The theme this year is Teachers of the Soul. The program will feature Pastor Dave Gullman and Pleasant View's Worship Team. We look forward to spending an enriching evening with you. Please RSVP to Pam Miller at 540-896-8101 or email her at pmiller@pleasantviewinc.org ★



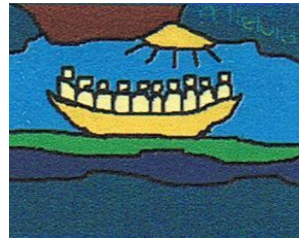
CURRENT EVENTS

If you are in the market for American made knives, cookbooks, dips, candles, stoneware, cake, soup, and cheese-ball mixes and more, contact Lisa Heatwole at 896-8276 to order

All proceeds go to purchase supplies, games, and outings for individuals attending Broadway Day Program.



Faith and Light



AN INTERNATIONAL
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
WITH PEOPLE WITH
INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITIES, THEIR
PARENTS, AND FRIENDS

Faith and Light services are held at 7:00 pm. The Faith and Light service dates and locations will be posted on our website events calendar at www.pleasantviewinc.org/events and Facebook Events page at www.facebook.com/pleasantviewinc.