

Moments from our Annual Fall Banquet



Celebrating: Hidden Treasures

Pleasant View's Annual Fall Banquet program focused on the individuals we support who are not often recognized for their achievements. These individuals are often more medically involved, nonverbal, need personal care, and take more time to get to know. We heard from two of our dedicated Harrison House employees, Cassy Fuller and Beverly Hinkle, who have formed relationships with many of these individuals.

Cassy and Beverly both expressed that forming relationships and building trust with each individual is essential and an enjoyable part of their job. Often that relationship helps them notice subtle changes in a person's behavior that can indicate a need or a problem. It is important to remember that each



"Treasures" Continued page 2

Continuing the Celebration

An important and greatly anticipated part of the Annual Fall Banquet is the Worship Team presentation. This year, banquet attendees were treated to new, more challenging music from the vocal and bell choirs. The song, "In the Bulb There is a Flower" was performed including a verse written by Paul Leichty and David Gullman. Starting with, "Jars of clay hold precious treasure;" and ending with "Here within this broken Body; Jesus wants us all to see He's revealed in every season, he is here in you and me." These truths are revealed every day in the work we do at Pleasant View and in every Worship Team performance. ●



Celebrating our Leadership

We were blessed by the attendance of many of our past and present members of the Pleasant View Board of Directors. Board President, Elroy Miller, presented David Yutzy with a token of our appreciation for his years of service 2004 to 2017. ●



Winter 2018



Supporting Individuals with

"Treasures" Continued:

person is different and one needs to learn his or her personal preferences. Cassy said she has learned that, "No matter what the disability they are all smart in their own way and have the ability to learn and grow. They are amazing people." Beverly invited those in attendance to come to our programs to experience for themselves that, "There is a real connection when you take the time to read with them, share a quiet moment, listen to music, or hold their hand and sit beside them.."

In closing, they wanted to be sure that everyone knows that just because an individual cannot vocalize his or her feelings clearly does not mean he or she does not have feelings. We celebrate happy times, but also provide companionship and support when an individual feels lonely. They are both proud of the important work we do at Pleasant View. ●



Worship Team Celebrates Christmas with Independent Community Church

For over thirty years the members of the Independent Community Church have welcomed Pleasant View's Worship Team to celebrate Christmas. Each of the long time Worship Team members start asking in early fall when we are going to sing at the "Church on the Hill". New



members of the Worship Team quickly find out what the excitement is all about.

The Worship Team members sing Christmas music, play drums with the "Little Drummer Boy," play bells with "Jingle Bells," participate in special readings, sing solos or small ensemble pieces, and celebrate the birth of Jesus with people who by now feel like family. We all end the evening with homemade treats and each Worship Team member receives a personal Christmas gift. ●



Harrisonburg Day Support Services' new vehicle



With \$15,127 from the Harrisonburg Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and a \$1,000 Wells Fargo Foundation Grant, the Harrisonburg Day Support Services purchased a 2014 Honda CRV. The vehicle is

primarily used to transport individuals to and from their jobs through our Supported Employment program, but is also used to help people access the community to volunteer, go to doctor appointments, and explore.

We would like to thank Gerald and Blair Strawderman, Pleasant View maintenance team, for finding our new car. Thank you also to Harrisonburg Honda for helping us purchase the best car for our budget. ●

Our Mission: Pleasant View supports individuals with disabilities achieve their own spiritual, emotional, relational, vocational, and residential goals.

Intellectual Disabilities Since 1971

Learning From the Lives of Those We Have Lost

Dave Gullman

The Pleasant View community has recently experienced two deaths. Each person's passing leaves a hole in the fabric of our community. I would like to reflect a bit on some of the colorful threads they brought into the weave of community we experience here.

When **Gary Sheets** (October 25, 1945-November 4, 2017) came to Pleasant View's Harrison House from Western State Hospital in 1992, he kept a cautious distance from others. He moved to Moyers Apartments and later to Yoder House when he needed an accessible home. Gary had autism, which shaped how he related to the world and those around him. He was not a verbal communicator and seemed to like his world small and manageable, but there were a few exceptions.



One exceptional day was the day Gary was baptized. After attending Trinity Presbyterian Church for a few years, he still kept a safe distance from people, but let those who knew and understood him know that he wanted to take the membership classes

and be baptized. On the day of his baptism, when asked if he took Jesus to be his Lord and Savior, Nancy Hopkins-Garriss, Executive Director, says church members witnessed Gary clearly reply "YES." This was the only time many who knew Gary ever heard him speak words. After the baptismal ceremony, he accepted handshakes and hugs from his community of faith in spite of his usual reticence to being touched. It gives me comfort to know that God loosed his tongue and his usual reticence so that he could give witness to his deep faith in this way.

Aubrey Watson (December 3, 1953-November 12, 2017) died just shy of his 64th birthday. He spent much of his life at CVTC before moving to Harrison House in 1995.



Although Aubrey did not have great wealth or verbal abilities, he had something more. He had the kind of contentment

Paul writes about in 1 Timothy 6:6-7 where we read, "true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. ⁷ After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. ⁸ So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content." Aubrey was very wealthy when it came to this kind of contentment.

I recognized this contentment in his eyes and on his face as he expressed great joy at being home after an extended stay in the hospital. Aubrey's contentment was contagious. He would share his contentment with others with a smile, shake his head, and laugh. When sitting with a friend, he would sometimes gently touch their shoulder or cheek and gaze into their eyes resulting in a feeling of connection that briefly took one out of their busy day. It strikes me as significant that Aubrey had a unique way to show the world something important about God. God invites each of us to find community and contentment within the circles we are placed in.

Often we spend so much time trying to find contentment elsewhere that we miss out on the gifts right in front of us. Our society rushes by wonderful people just because they do not have a voice or appear to be impaired. Quality time spent with Gary and Aubrey was always an invitation to slow down and reorient oneself to the important things in life. Is it not remarkable that it takes individuals like Gary and Aubrey to teach us this important lesson? How many people miss that chance? ●



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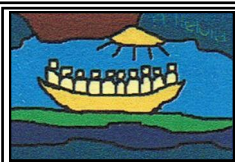
Mark Your Calendars...

You are invited to be a part of the first Great Community Give on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 from 6:30AM to 8:00PM. The Great Community Give benefits Nonprofit organizations like Pleasant View Inc. We will have more information on our website and Facebook page @pleasantviewinc



Other Upcoming Events:

- **Pleasant View Yard Sale will be Saturday, May 5, 2018 starting at 8AM at 3135 Old Thirty Three Rd Rockingham Va.**



All community members are invited to Faith & Light

For locations and times look to www.pleasantviewinc.org/newsevents.html and Facebook Events page at www.facebook.com/pleasantviewinc.

21st Annual Golf Event Friday, May 4, 2018 at Spotswood Country Club



<http://pleasantviewinc.org/newsevents.html>

Help individuals with intellectual disabilities achieve more.

In May of 1998, Pleasant View, Inc. held our first charity golf tournament. Since then, through the generosity of our sponsors and golfers, over \$320,000 has been raised to help Pleasant View provide day and residential support for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Last year we raised over \$20,000. Gather your teams, register early, and prepare to have fun.

- Format: Captain's Choice
- Registration begins at 8:00 AM, with a shotgun start at 9:10 AM.
- Online Registration through PayPal \$103/golfer, or \$389/team of 4 (Before 4/27/18) \$125/golfer or \$405/team of 4 (4/28/18-5/4/18).
- Team Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Teams. Mulligans, Power balls, and 50/50 will be offered at registration. We will have closest to the pin and longest drive contests.
- Lunch will be provided starting at 1:00 PM. Team prizes, contest prizes, and door prize drawings will be awarded after lunch.

Contact Pam Miller at 540-896-8101 or pmiller@pleasantviewinc.org for sponsorship opportunities or for more information.