



PLEASANT VIEWS

Disability Awareness Month

We were blessed with sunny, 70 degree weather as we gathered for the Developmental Disability and Acceptance Rally on Court Square March 22, 2022. Near the Rockingham Courthouse steps, you could hear joyful greetings as our group of over 30 people helped each other get settled. Because of the pandemic, our last rally was March 2019. It was important to raise our voices again. Our speakers were more than ready to share a little bit of themselves to encourage action and understanding.

Opening Remarks, Kevin Paluszak



- In his opening remarks, Executive Director, Kevin Paluszak, encouraged us to expand society's call for social justice and equal opportunities in life to include relationships and representation of people of differing abilities.
- Genny Pipitone, President of Harrisonburg Kiwanis Aktion Club, spoke about a job she loves where she is treated well and how we share many of the same passions.
- When asked about his dreams, Dennis Sampson said that he always dreams of his wife Diane. He explains that she hasn't been able to



Genny Pipitone speaking at rally

Derek and Dennis at rally



"Rally" cont. page 2

The Great Community Give: Quality of Life for All

Pleasant View's focus is **Quality of Life for All**. A large part of quality of life is the opportunity to develop and work toward goals. Many of the individuals we support have goals which require accessible housing, transportation, and personal assistance.



Accessible trip to Harlem Globe Trotters

Pleasant View is participating in the fifth annual Great Community Give Wednesday, April 20, 2020 from 6:30AM to 8PM, an initiative of the Community Foundation.

By donating to us on April 20th, you are helping us reach our goal of raising \$25,000 during the GCG. Supporting our efforts will help us **create greater accessibility through the purchase of an accessible vehicle, and complete other accessibility projects in our residential and day programs**.

Thirty-six percent of the individuals we support use wheelchairs or other mobility devices. We depend on our accessible vehicles for doctor appointments, grocery shopping, employment, entertainment and other trips. We also continue to assess, update, and improve accessibility in our programs. Along with donating, you can help us by sharing our social media posts and mission with your



Carrie uses an accessible van to go to day program

"GCG" cont. page 2

Spring 2022

Supporting Individuals with

“Rally” Continued:

live with him, but is moving home soon. Dennis also has the support of his church—not just during services, but getting to and from the church.



Pamela Cook speaking

- Pamela Cook said she first thought volunteering and going out in the community (through Community Connections, CC) was good for the individuals we support with disabilities. Later, she realized the CC participants were helping the community see the kindness and friendship we shared. We helped people understand we all belong.

We had over twelve people who wanted to share. A common thread throughout the rally was that we want the community to see who we are and recognize we are not so different from anybody else. We want a community where we all belong. **You can see the entire Rally or individual speakers on our <https://tinyurl.com/DDawarenessRally>** ●

Another Accessibility Issue

Pleasant View’s focus on quality of life for all brings to light some disparities in how each individual’s personal funds work. Everyone we support qualifies as having low-income. Some have such low income that without help they could do little more than pay their rent, utilities, and groceries. Many venues will periodically donate tickets for events and camps may offer scholarships, but that is not always possible.

We are having a Designer Handbag Bingo at the AM Vets Saturday April 23, 2022 with early bird games starting after the doors open at 2PM. We are holding it in memory of Amy Hatmaker. Amy was a longtime resident of Turner House who loved looking her best. Each morning she chose necklaces, a broach, and a purse to accent each outfit. The money from the Bingo will go into the **Resident Activity Fund**. Some past trips funded include camp experiences, Kings Dominion, Concerts, Ice Capades, and more. Please join us for a fun evening. You can also send a donation designated to the **Resident Activity Fund**. ●

“GCG” Continued:

friends and other caring community members with an interest in philanthropy. On the days leading up to and during the GCG, we plan to broadcast Facebook Live interviews, post pre-recorded videos, and share pictures.

Pleasant View is attempting to win the “Brunch Time Prize” for Greatest Number of Donors donating between the hours of 11AM and 12 Noon this year.

You can contribute any time during the Great Community Give event, but if you donate to Pleasant View between the hours of 11:00 AM and 12 Noon, you can help us win the “Brunch Power Hour” prize of \$1,500. Multiple gifts from the same person during this time, count as one gift for this challenge. Donate as little as \$10 to increase our chance of receiving additional prizes.



Brenneman House and 1 of 2 accessible vans

Also, if you give a gift between 6AM-7AM, 8AM-9AM, 10AM-11AM, 2PM-3PM, 4PM-5PM, and 6PM-7PM, you can **trigger a “Golden Ticket” prize**. During the “Golden Ticket” challenge, one random gift given between each of those times listed above will trigger an extra \$500 gift for your nonprofit of choice. Any donor giving during those times can be responsible for directing this generous gift to your favorite nonprofit. Last year, we raised \$24,202. **This year, our goal is to raise \$25,000 to further our mission.**

If you want to be a peer-to-peer fundraiser for Pleasant View, you can email pmiller@pleasantviewinc.org or go to donate.greatcommunitygive.org/organizations/pleasant-view-inc .

Please help spread the word by telling your friends and family. ●

Thank you for your support!

Our Mission: Pleasant View supports individuals who have disabilities in living out their goals for meaningful work, relationships and spiritual development.



Intellectual Disabilities Since 1971



Our walking group at Purcell Park

Accessibility Allies & Friendship Walks

Last year during our 50th Anniversary Celebrations, our anniversary committee decided to try to encourage people to walk, wheel, or ride 50 miles in the month of June. We planned five meet-up walks in accessible parks throughout Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, and beyond. We had so much fun getting together, walking, and visiting with each other that we extended our meet-up walks through the end of the summer.

Over the last several months, more accessible trails have been created throughout Harrisonburg. Pleasant View wants to promote these trails and get together with friends again this year. On March 17, 2022, we held our first Accessibility Allies & Friendship Walk at Purcell Park. We had 18 people in attendance on an unseasonably warm day for March.

Our next walk is planned for 4:30PM April 21st at Rockingham Park. Since the last newsletter, we

changed the meeting time to 4:30PM so people can walk and attend Faith & Light service virtually or in-person. If you want to walk and

go to Faith & Light in-person, we will have a light meal to share at the Harrisonburg Day Program after the walk. **If you plan to attend both and plan to eat with us, RSVP at pmiller@pleasantviewinc.org** ●

Friends walking at Purcell Park



Faith & Light at HDP



Faith & Light: Attend Virtually or In-Person

Faith & Light is an inclusive international Christian association. It is a faith community that helps intellectually disabled people, their parents, and friends by fostering friendship, sharing, celebration, and prayers. In 2021, Faith & Light celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The planning committee is comprised of individuals with and without developmental disabilities. Faith & Light is another community where you can feel a great sense of belonging.

Our regularly scheduled Faith & Light services are

held the 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 7PM during the school year at the Harrisonburg Day Program (151 Commerce Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22801). During the summer months we will meet once a month-same time and place. You can find the dates and times on our Facebook page or pleasantviewinc.org events page. Everyone is invited to attend. Contact Derek Yoder at derek@pleasantviewinc.org for the Zoom link. ●

A Sweet Thing to Do

In late January, Pleasant View received a call from Greenmount Church of the Brethren. On Valentine's Day, they sent lovely valentines and plates of delicious treats to individuals we support and direct support professionals at our residential programs. Thank you for making out Valentine's day a little more sweet! ●



Phylicia and Watkins holding their treats



Do you like to golf?



Join us and help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities live in and enrich their communities.

Pleasant View's 25th Annual Charity Golf Tournament Friday, May 20, 2022 Spotswood Country Club

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

Over the last 25 years, **generous sponsors and golfers like you, have raised over \$412,306.00 to provide day and residential supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities!** Last year we raised over \$14,000.00. We need your help to keep improving and moving forward.

Gather your teams, register early, and prepare to have fun.

- Format: Captain's Choice
- Registration begins at 8:00AM, with a shotgun start at 9:10AM.
- Please register by May 5, 2022, either online registration through PayPal \$118/golfer or \$450/team of 4 (see above link) **OR** avoid fees by paying by check (\$115/golfer or \$440/team).

Sponsorships Available:

Contact Pam Miller at (540) 560-1134 or pmiller@pleasantviewinc.org for sponsorship opportunities and more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS



April

- **Great Community Give**
Wednesday, April 20, 2022 from 6:30AM to 8PM. All of our online donation buttons on Facebook and website will be rerouted to the Pleasant View Great Community Give Profile. <https://donate.greatcommunitygive.org/organizations/pleasant-view-inc>
- **Dance & Outdoor Game Party** at Harrisonburg Day Support Services (HDP), 151 Commerce Drive, 22802 on Wednesday April 20, 2022 from 1PM to 3PM.
- **Thursday, April 21, 2022**
 - **Friendship Walk Meet-up** (Rockingham Park) at 4:30PM
 - **Light meal** for those attending both; RSVP pmiller@pleasantviewinc.org
 - **Faith & Light** (at the HDP) at 7PM.
- **Saturday April 23, 2022:** Sponsor & Team in the SVAP Autism 5K
- **Saturday April 23, 2022: Designer Bag Bingo** at the AmVets Post 7 on Liberty St starting at 2PM.

May

- **Friendship Walk Meet-up** (Hillendale Park) May 12, 2022, at 1:30PM.
- **Golf Tournament** (Information on Left)
- **Friendship Walk Meet-up** (Storybook Trail) Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 1:30PM.