



Assisting people with developmental disabilities so that they have the opportunity to build safe, healthy, meaningful lives in the community

Choices' Voices

CHOICES IN COMMUNITY LIVING, INC. EST. 1985

Founding Partner of **Partners For Community Living**



The gift of home

In 1996 the word autism was unfamiliar to most, frightening, a mystery except to those who experienced it on a daily basis. It was in that year that Choices opened one of the first homes in Montgomery County specifically to address the needs of young adults with autism. The Wenger Road home opened its doors to three nonverbal teenage boys who faced an uncertain, restrictive environment if Choices and our staff were unsuccessful in meeting their challenging needs within a community setting.

There were 14 staff for the home in the first days, 13 men and one woman, providing one-on-one support. So little was known about how best to serve adults with the challenging behaviors that were a result of their autism that staff volunteered their own time to attend training and inservices.

Dorian Baker was one of those young teenage boys who came to the home when it first opened. He was 18 years old. Today he enjoys participating in Special Olympics Track & Field events. He is the 'go to' person at Wenger. He knows everything about the home, where things are kept, when things are done, what comes next in the all-important routine for each of the men. In addition to Special Olympics, he enjoys playing Uno and Old Maid, as well as trips to the park. One of the best parts of home for him is going out into the back yard and swinging.

Jesse Stanley moved to Wenger in 1999 and struggled to find his place in the home and in the world. He wouldn't eat vegetables, would not assist in home cleaning chores and would not get dressed independently. He now loves pickles and Beef Jerky and doesn't mind eating his vegetables. He takes the trash to the curb each week, vacuums, and assists with laundry. He dresses himself independently. He enjoys earning a paycheck from his work with MONCO.

When the first *Art & Soul* juried art exhibit was held four years ago, it was Tim Hughes whose name was called as Best of Show winner in the show that featured artists from 18 counties throughout the region. Although he is deaf and nonverbal his art spoke and speaks volumes for him and about him.

Tim became a member of our extended Choices family in 1997, living first at the Taywood Home. He moved to the Wenger Home in 2005. He enjoys being busy and busy he is. There is Monday night activities at Choices office, Tuesday working on his art at We Care Arts, swimming at the YMCA on Wednesday, massages on Thursday, Friday dances or basketball games and then bowling on Saturday.



The Wenger Road family includes (l-r) Tim Hughes, Jesse Stanley and Dorian Baker.

There is structure and routine in their home. Staff work with the same commitment they had in those early days to make sure that the men's family members receive birthday and holiday cards. They schedule time so the three of them can go out to dinner with their families, with staff going along to provide continuity and consistency.

It's been a long a journey from 1996, a long road to the independence the men enjoy today. They take trips together to such places as Kings Island, Cedar Point and COSI. They participate in our annual Talent Show, where they have performed as clowns, surfers

and zombies. They were honored by the state for a tee-shirt design they made for the *Lest We Forget* garden dedication in Akron. They received a \$1000 grant from Wal-Mart that they used to purchase a patio set and equipment for their back yard.

As the Christmas tree was decorated for another season at Wenger, as plans were made for holiday shopping and time with family, those who live in the home and those who serve in it know they already have the best gift they could ever receive – the one gift that matters most – that gift of family and of home.

Choices In Community "Giving"

by Tom Weaver, Executive Director

"I worried about not having shoes until I met a man who had no feet."

These few short words have had a profound impact on me all of my life, but never more so than as I struggled to prepare this message to you. You have provided us so many gifts, not just during this season of giving, but for all the years since we first began in 1985. With all that you have given, our name could as easily be Choices In Community Giving as it is Choices In Community Living.

For all we have been given, we are truly thankful and mindful not to take even one measure of friendship and support for granted. I am humbled as I look back at 2011. Because of donors to our Wish List, Elmer was able to go to Kentucky to visit family he hasn't seen in years. Angela has new clothes and a coat to keep her warm in the winter cold. Theresa, Steve and David are thrilled by their new sofa and dining room set. There will be gifts under Christmas trees for Leslie, Mary, David, Ken and Wendy.

There were community partners, like Reynolds & Reynolds Associates Foundation, and others who said yes to helping us purchase our new van. There were those who gave the gift of time. Just ask Paul, Wanda and Jodi about their Friends By Choice and watch their eyes shine and their faces light up. Ask them about their shopping trips, balls games, phone calls, birthday parties and time spent together.

There was the gift of time from so many volunteers, from OTA students who make Monday nights something more memorable than even watching a football game. There were Sign Language students who cared enough about making the Halloween party so special that they made ghost sandwiches. There were two hard-working servers from Olive Garden who donated their tips to us, and other servers who dished out lasagna and fettuccine for our Family Circle guests.

As always, there was our staff, giving beyond measure, giving both their personal time and personal resources, giving to those they serve, giving more than 200 pounds of food to the hungry in our community. There was our board, providing not only leadership but support, volunteering at our events, like our Fish Fry, donating to raffle baskets, helping us with Jingle Bucks and so much more.

There was our ongoing partnership with Resident Home Association and all that we accomplish through our Partners For Community Living – our monthly DATV television show, our newsletters, our volunteers, all of our events and activities.

With so much given, how could I possibly take any moment of this past year and all the years that came before for granted! Thank you for the gift of sharing, caring and supporting the men and women we serve. **It is because of you that they and we know the true meaning of the season!** From all of us, to each of you, may you know as many blessings in the new year as you have bestowed upon us.

The Gift of Entertainment – Standing room only at Talent Show 2011

More than 400 guests filled the Northview School gym to overflowing as 60 performers, including guest performers from Resident Home Association, took to the stage, with performances that ranged from individual songs, to comedy routines to energetic dance routines. Emcees for the night were Program Administrator Marvin Lewis and Torry Brown, the first client to take the microphone as an emcee.

Judges presented awards in 20 categories. Judges included Representative Clayton Luckie, Montgomery County Auditor Karl Keith (*judging his 12th Talent Show*), Dr. Julie Williams of Wright State University's Psychology Department (*and a CICL board member*) and Mark Gerhardstein, Superintendent of the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

The hard work of volunteers and our Talent Show Committee made this one of our most memorable shows. Committee members were Danette Addison, Celeste Boehm, Taylor Roustio and Tom Weaver.

The gift of service – our Wenger staff

When others would have seen outbursts instead of creativity, potential and possibility – when others would have dismissed the value and dignity beyond the label of autism – there were those rare individuals who came together as one heart and one spirit to grow into a team that has endured, persevered, changed, created, supported and believed.

In doing so, they have changed the lives of three men and their grateful families. They have established a level of professional standards for Direct Support Professionals (*DSPs*) working together as a team. They have proven by example that we have nothing to fear when we are strong enough and dedicated enough to see what is possible beyond the labels.

Our Wenger team includes Derek Moyer and Chris Scagg who have been in the home almost since it opened, as well as Anita Butler, Brenda Cox, Vincent Eziako Tim Henderson, Jeanise Johnson, Ida Ray, Marlene Saucer, with the energetic, boisterous and joyful leadership of Program Administrator Marvin Lewis.

The gift of welcome

We are spending our first holiday season with the newest members of our Choices extended family.

- David – Sturgeon Home in Clark County
- Nathan – Arlington Home in Madison County
- John – Cliffwood Home in Montgomery County
- Tamikia – Swallowtail Home in Montgomery County
- Gisela – Huntsview Home in Montgomery County
- Jeff – Maple Street Home in Preble County



The gift of beauty

Who doesn't enjoy a little pampering from time to time? Twenty of our ladies certainly enjoyed their pampering when Glamour Day was held at our Choices office. There were facials, manicures, new hair-dos, and make-up. The finale of the big day came with professional glamour photos taken by photographer Andy Hutchinson, who is also one of our most generous volunteers.

The make-up was donated by volunteer Nancy Reder and a volunteer from the First Baptist Church in Kettering. The pampering was provided by young volunteers from the church. With the success of our first Glamour Day, can more pampering be just around the corner in 2012?



A radiant Alberta Holmes smiles in her glamour portrait by photographer Andy Hutchinson



Wanda Brown awaits her beauty transformation from one of our volunteers from First Baptist Church.

The gift of friendship

We honor Dianna Hudson and her husband Mark for making Paul Lucas' 42nd birthday one that he will never forget. Dianna and Mark not only took Paul out for dinner, they took staff and friends as well, 13 in all. They treated everyone to pizza, wings, subs and cakes. They also presented every guest with a gift bag.

During the celebration Paul shared with his guests how much he enjoyed his Thanksgiving at 'Grandma's house', with that Grandma being Dianna's grandmother, for Paul has been a most welcome member of that family for more than 13 years now. Dianna first met Paul when she became a Friend By Choice volunteer. Over that period of time, not only have the two become the best of friends, they have become family. There have been many Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas celebrations, movies, dinners and phone calls over the years.

"He's my best friend," Dianna says of Paul. "He'll be my best friend for the rest of my life. I wouldn't have it any other way and neither would he."



Dianna Hudson shares holiday moments with Paul Lucas at our Holiday Happenings dinner.

The gift of sharing

Choices employees always give the best of themselves in support of our clients, providing caring and professional support. They can always be counted to give beyond what is expected of them on a day to day basis. They use their own resources to make sure clients celebrate birthdays and holidays. They plan and host dinners for them. Some have taken clients to their own homes so they won't be alone on holidays.

Some make a pledge every year to our Employee campaign in support of our Wish List because they know their pledge will help provide clothing, furniture, holiday gifts and more for the people they serve. They give beyond Choices as well. During this holiday season we share our pride in our employees who provided more than 270 pounds of food for the Dayton Food Bank.





The gift of family

Seems 2011 just got started and here we are at our annual Holiday Happenings dinner at the Irish Club for clients, families and friends. CICL's Glen and Kristie Koker celebrated with their mothers, Judith Koker and Carolyn White. Each client attending our dinner received a gift card made possible by funds from our Wish List.

In addition to our Wish List donors, we honor AAbel Heating & Air, Centerville Pharmacy, Jason Hensley's Goodyear and Houser Asphalt for their sponsorships. If you have the opportunity to meet one of our sponsors or do business with them, please tell them you heard about their support of people served by Choices In Community Living.

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*Choices Voices is written, edited and distributed
through the office of Partners For Community Living*

Website invitation — Would you like to know more about our services, homes and staff?

You can learn more by visiting our website at www.partnersohio.com. Look for the Choices In Community Living link at the top of the home page and click on it. We encourage you to look at our links on the left to learn more about us.

We would also like to share notices about our events and activities with you by sending you an email to remind you of dates and other information.

Please go to our email at partners@choicesincl.com and give us your email and we'll stay in touch!



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Partners For Community Living

a collaborative partnership between Choices In Community Living, Inc.
and Resident Home Association



It's the 5th year for our Halloween party planned and coordinated by students from Jessica Minor's Sign Language classes at Sinclair Community College, with support from our Volunteer Coordinator Pam Winston. As in previous years, United Rehabilitation Services (URS) provided us the location for one of our most anticipated events. This year's highlights for our 135 Choices and Resident Home guests included dancing, fantastic costumes, individual photos, arts and crafts, prizes, popcorn, snow cones and other great food, including some very creative ghost sandwiches.

Special thanks goes to Tim Jones of URS (*back row – left*). According to Volunteer Coordinator Pam Winston, Tim always has a smile on his face no matter what is happening and he is the best host ever. Residents send their thanks to Tim for letting them use the popcorn machine, cotton candy machine and ice ball machine, as well as the sound system. We hear that YMCA, Purple People Eater, and Monster Mash never sounded so good!

The favorite, favorite, favorite thing for CICL's Annie Long at the Halloween Party was the huge hug she received from the Dayton Dragons Heater.

The gift of volunteering

Carolyn Hayes may just be the best gift the ladies of RHA's Springmill Home have ever received. Carolyn, who is pictured with a very happy Vicki Glynn, is one of our most generous volunteers. She adopted our Springmill home this year and has been working her magic with the ladies, who think she is just the best!



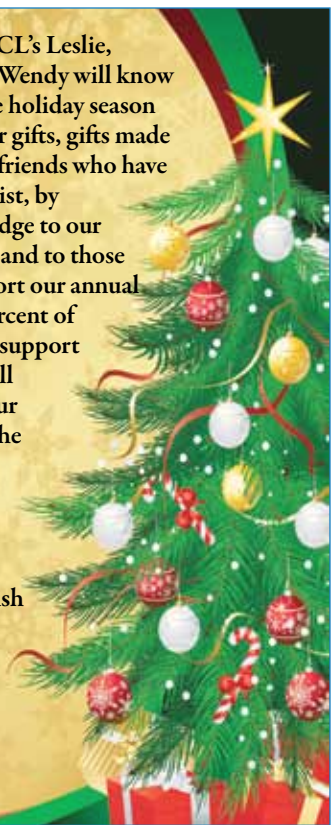
Carolyn, who works with LexisNexis, has enjoyed her time with our ladies so much that she decided to do even more during the holidays, including hosting a cookie decorating party for not only her Springmill ladies, but for the ladies of RHA's Riverbend and Joyce Ann homes as well. She baked six dozen cookies and then brought all the icing and sprinkles for everyone to decorate.

"Carolyn has been a very active volunteer for over a year now," says Volunteer Coordinator Pam Winston. She says yes

to everything I ask of her and does so much more on her own, including planning and coordinating our cookie decorating party. She is a wonderful gift to us."

Because of you ... CICL's Leslie, Mary, David, Ken and Wendy will know the true meaning of the holiday season when they unwrap their gifts, gifts made possible by family and friends who have donated to our Wish List, by our employees who pledge to our Employee Campaigns, and to those who sponsor and support our annual Bowl-A-Thon. Fifty percent of employee pledges help support our Wish Lists, while all of the proceeds from our Bowl-A-Thon goes to the Wish List for Choices and Resident Home Association.

In addition to the individual gifts, the Wish List also provided gift cards for clients during Choices' Holiday Happenings dinner.





Our Giving Corner

A great time was had by all at our Thanksgiving celebration at Olive Garden. RHA residents share time with their Olive Garden friends, Tiffany Odham (left), Kristin Artkamp, Olive Garden manager, and Valerie McQuate.

We welcome the Olive Garden Restaurant on Miller Lane as our new partner and generous friend. We thank them for hosting an after-Thanksgiving feast from appetizers to desserts for RHA residents and staff at their restaurant. Not only was there great food and exceptional service, Tiffany and Valerie even donated their tips from the dinner back to us!

In addition to the Thanksgiving feast, they also provided lunch at CICL's Cliffwood home for our Family Circle meeting, served by Kristin, Valerie and Rachel Sweat. They are providing us a monthly gift certificate for our Volunteer Program. We are also looking forward to an after-Christmas dinner at the restaurant for CICL clients and RHA residents.

We thank Kristin and her team for their kindness, generosity and friendship. They are a most welcome gift and we give thanks for them and to them this holiday season. We look forward to a new year with a growing friendship with Kristin and her Olive Garden team.

The gift of fun and friendship – please join our 2012 events

- The deadline for entries for our 5th annual *Art & Soul* exhibit is February 6. Artists with disabilities in a 22 county area in and around Dayton are invited to submit entries for judging. The top ten entries as well as judges and executive directors winners will receive cash awards. Unframed entries may be sent to The Inner I Gallery, 81 E. Main Street, Xenia, 45385. More information is available by calling Jodi Hill at 937-708-3656.
- Our next Family Circle luncheon will be February 14. If you are interested in joining us for lunch, please contact us at 898-3655 or send us an email at partners@choicesincl.com. We invite family and friends to join us.
- Our annual Fish Fry will be Friday, March 23 at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Huber Heights, beginning at 6:00. We will feature fish (or sausage) dinners, bake sale, raffles, 50/50 Jackpot, and a variety of casino-style games.
- Our 5th Annual *Art & Soul* juried art exhibit will be April 20, 6:30-8:30 at the Town & Country Fine Arts Gallery. The opening reception is free and open to the public. Sponsors for 2012 include Butler, Greene, Hamilton and Montgomery County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, as well as Clermont and Miami County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.
You can be a part of the 2012 exhibit by supporting one of our 14 awards. Your award will be presented to the winner in your name. Your name, your family name, business name or group name will also be in the program for the event and in other promotions. You can support awards 2-10 for a \$100 tax-deductible donation or support the Best of Show, Judges Awards and Executive Directors Award for a donation of \$150.00. Your support will directly benefit the artists.

Contact us at 898-3655 or at partners@choicesincl.com for more information on our 2012 activities. More information will also be available on our website at www.partnersohio.com. Look at the links on the top of our home page and click on events.

The gifts of friends

AAbel Heating & Air, *CICL Holiday Happenings*
 Sue Ault, *community campaign*
 Mary Brennan, *community campaign*
 Marguerite D. Bristow, *community campaign*
 Centerville Pharmacy, *CICL Holiday Happenings*
 Chard, Snyder & Associates, *community campaign*
 Debra Caporal, *community campaign*
 Wilma Creager, *community campaign, in memory of Kenneth Binkley*
 Edith Fuson, *community campaign, in honor of Michael Aguayo*
 GE Money, *La Comedia theater tickets for Christmas Carol – RHA*
 Tom & Sherri Giver, *community campaign*
 Kathleen Gmeiner, *community campaign*
 Goodyear/Jason Hensley, *CICL Holiday Happenings*
 John P. Guhde, *community campaign*
 Dennis R. Hays, *community campaign*
 Jean House, *community campaign*
 Houser Asphalt, *CICL Holiday Happenings*
 Mike Houser, *community campaign*
 Bill & Helen Husmann, *community campaign*
 Doug & Ann Jones, *community campaign*
 Judy & Larry Koker, *community campaign*
 Madison Avenue Pharmacy, *CICL, holiday party for Clark/Madison clients*
 Charles & Joyce Marsh, *community campaign, in memory of Roger Marsh and in honor of Debra Marsh*
 Jean E. Maurer, *community campaign*
 Ellen McCloskey, *community campaign, in honor of Brenda Whitney*
 Valerie McQuate, *donated her tips from Olive Garden holiday dinner*
 Richard C. Matthews, *community campaign to RHA*
 Joan Mosher, *community campaign*
 Tiffany Odham, *donated her tips from Olive Garden holiday dinner*
 Janet Peasant, *CICL Wish List*
 Myron & Charla Rheame, *community campaign*
 Christine Roll, *community campaign*
 Nora Rutherford, *community campaign*
 Edwin D. Shock, Sr., *community campaign*
 Gerald & Verena Shroyer, *community campaign*
 Bill & Fran Watkins, *community campaign*
 Thomas E. Weaver, *community campaign*
 Brenda J. Whitney, *in honor of Pete Roll*

Congratulations to our 2011 Jingle Bucks winner, Ellen McCloskey of Miamisburg, Ohio and her lucky number 187 and thank you to everyone who supported us by buying tickets.

Do you have a lucky number between 1-500. Think about reserving that lucky number now for your 2012 Jingle Bucks ticket. Just send us an email at partners@choicesincl.com to reserve your ticket or to let us know you would like to be placed on our Jingle Bucks mailing list.