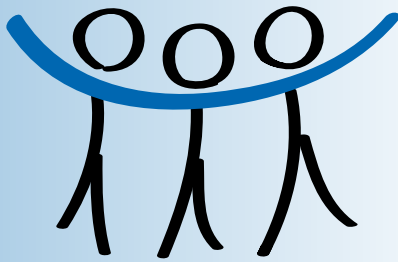


# CENTER PIECES

Fall 2009 Newsletter

280 Saunders Road, Riverwoods, Illinois 60015 phone: 847.948.7001



**THE CENTER**  
for enriched living  
Friends, Fun and Belonging

[www.CenterForEnrichedLiving.org](http://www.CenterForEnrichedLiving.org)

## OUR MISSION

Helping people with developmental disabilities live more independent and fulfilling lives through education, recreation and social activities in a safe, fun and welcoming environment.

## Center members REACH for SUCCESS

Sometimes in our lives, the right person is in the right place at the right time. And that, in a nutshell, is Tony's story. Tony is 22 and his education is considered complete.

But sitting home watching television was not an option for him. His family found the REACH program at CEL and they will tell you that it is one of the best things that has happened for Tony.

During Tony's transition period, before he finished high school, he worked in a department store. But he was not able to sustain employment without a job coach – and that didn't seem to be a possibility. REACH was the perfect next step for Tony.

REACH is a year round day program for adults who have graduated from high school and are at least 22 years of age.

With one through five day-a-week options, REACH can fit different needs. Whether members work part-time, are unemployed, are transitioning into full-time day programming, or just want something different from the traditional day workshop environment, they can learn new skills, retain skills they

*See REACH page 3*



On Wednesdays, Tony looks forward to community service projects. REACH recognizes that everyone should experience the satisfaction of "giving back" and program participants have enjoyed stocking shelves at the Deerfield Food Pantry, adopting a section of highway for removing litter, and assembling welcome baskets for new residents of a women's shelter in Libertyville.

"We checked out a number of programs before deciding on The Center. Believe me, no other program in the Chicagoland area is even IN THE SAME LEAGUE."

~Bernie La Porte, Tony's Father

R – Ready for life  
E – Employment readiness  
A – Accessing community resources  
C – Community and volunteer work  
H – Healthy lifestyle initiatives

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*\* former Board President*



**Dear Center Friends,**

Illinois is already last in the nation in funding people with disabilities. The recent Blueprint for Change was supposed to move us up to a “mediocre” 25th in the nation within the next 7 years. With the state budget crisis and devastating cuts to social service agencies, we won’t even reach “mediocre.”

I think things would be a lot different if everyone in state government had a child with a disability. Then they would know what we who live and work with people with developmental disabilities already know.

We know how MUCH a person with disabilities is capable of achieving with adequate supports in place. With things the way they were, people with disabilities were just surviving. With the projected cuts they will languish. With adequate funding of services and supports they would flourish beyond what we could ever imagine. We know this because we see this at CEL. At The Center, we see first-hand what someone with a disability is capable of.

- We know that people with disabilities CAN work.
- We know that people with disabilities CAN volunteer.
- We know that people with disabilities CAN live in their own apartments or homes within their communities.
- We know that people with disabilities can make friends, date, and even get married.
- We know that people with disabilities can be artists and athletes, writers and performers.
- We know that people with disabilities can, and should be, active participating members of society – they can be consumers and tax payers. When we offer choices and opportunities people with developmental disabilities not only flourish...they soar!

Although CEL does not receive state funding, a large number of our members receive it in one form or another and will be adversely affected. As many of the agencies we partner with face the devastation of drastic cuts to their programs (some even forced to close their doors) – we will stand firm to our commitment of providing affordable social and continuing education programs to all who are in need. CEL will continue to be that “oasis from the storm” for people with developmental disabilities.

We hope you will stand firm in your commitment to The Center for Enriched Living. Your donations DO COUNT and they do CHANGE lives.

**Harriet Levy**  
Executive Director

During the summer session, REACH members wanted to get into the community and do something fun. Tony enjoyed going to Antioch with his REACH friends and visiting Millenium Park.

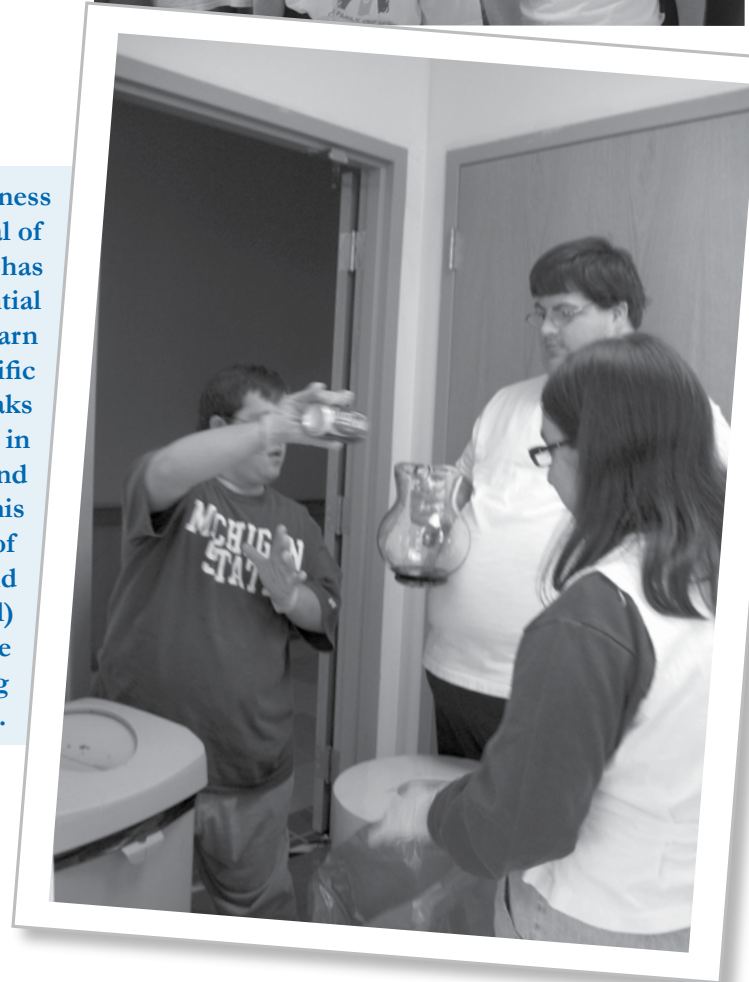


*continued REACH page 1*

previously learned, and socialize and make new friends.

In addition to our talented staff, REACH is very fortunate to have wonderful volunteers who work with the members, and help set up community service projects and employment experiences. REACH volunteer, Lori Kash states, "It didn't take long to establish connections with the members. We have a great group and our relationships are a two-way street. The members are a part of my life and I'm a part of theirs. We have so much fun together; we laugh together, we learn together, we do all of this together. It really puts meaning in Friends, Fun and Belonging."

**Work readiness is one goal of REACH. Tony has toured potential work sites to learn about specific jobs. This peaks his interest in certain areas and increases his understanding of what the job (and work in general) is all about. He likes feeling useful.**



**Tony enjoys horticulture projects on Wednesdays. Working with the Chicago Botanic Garden he has planted vegetable, herb and flower gardens and designed window boxes. Tony and his REACH friends recycle and help keep The Center "green". Through these activities, he has stayed physically active while learning new skills and bringing color to The Center.**

For more information on REACH, contact Vicki Caserno (847.315.9920) or Mary Ellen Holt (847.315.9917), Outreach Managers.

# new programs give young children a head start

In 1968, two parents of children with developmental disabilities approached the social worker at a local community center and asked to have their children included in programs. Today, many parents come to The Center looking for a place for their children to belong and be involved in fun activities with other children.

The Center recognizes the advantage of giving children, youth and teens opportunities for socialization.

- Fun Factory is a Saturday morning program targeted at elementary school children with developmental disabilities. Young people (ages 5-12) are welcomed to the Kidz Zone (an area of The Center designated for younger children) for games, arts & crafts, snacks and other fun activities.
- To introduce younger children and their families into the world of Special Olympics, Young Athletes was developed by Special Olympics™. Teaching developmentally appropriate play activities that foster physical, cognitive and social development, children, ages 2-7, learn about movement and sports while making new friends.
- On the drawing board for Summer 2010 will be Kidz Kamp, a day camp program for children ages 4-8.
- Parents of teens with developmental disabilities have asked for more weekend programs and starting in September 2009, THO (Teens Hang Out) will be a place for teens to “hang



out” with their friends and choose to spend the time in activities of their choice.

There are many youth in our service area who are too far from The Center for it to be a practical option for after school programs so we have found success running Satellite programs in Skokie, Lake Forest and Arlington Heights. We are open to expanding this program to other locations.

In all of these programs, The Center successfully provides activities that all children like but are usually unavailable to kids with developmental disabilities. Our members learn the joys of Friends, Fun and Belonging.

For more information on any of our programs for youth and teens, contact Vicki Caserno (847-315-9920) or Mary Ellen Holt (847-315-9917), Outreach Managers.



Becky, left, and Angie, right, of the REACH Program with volunteer Lori Kash, center, had fun sorting (and modeling) donated clothes for the August Rummage Sale.

## VOLUNTEERS

Have a little discretionary time and want to fill it with something that will make you feel very good? You would make a great VOLUNTEER and The Center is looking for you!!

We can use folks who like to work with youth, teens, young adults and adults, who would like to share any expertise that enriches your lives, who want to volunteer every week or a couple times a year. The Center uses volunteers in all of our programs – from after school programs to evening and weekend activities, from every day in ongoing programs to special events. If you see anything that fits your time or talents or if you have other suggestions, please contact Melissa Juarez-Ehlers at 847.315.9913.

# are you a LEADER?

So much has changed in the 22 years that CEL has been an independent agency with its own board of directors. The board now has term limits (3 year terms with a limit of 3 terms). The board also has fundraising and committee expectations, with regular self-reporting and monitoring. As a result of these heightened governance standards, CEL has developed a dynamic and successful board that yields results.

If you are someone who would like to take your volunteer efforts to the next level – then consider joining the board at The Center. This is an excellent opportunity for people to bring their skills and interests to bear on a nonprofit that prides itself on positively changing the lives of our people of all ages with developmental disabilities.

We also welcome people to serve on board committees as non-board members and are looking for expertise in marketing, finance and fundraising.

For more information on the Board of Directors, contact Harriet Levy at 847-315-9914.



At The Center's Annual Meeting in June, Brad Cohn of Highland Park, was honored by Board President Kathy Nellis for 19 years of service on the Board of Directors, including two years as its President. On behalf of people with developmental disabilities, we are grateful to Brad for being someone we could always count on to have our best interests at heart.

## NEEDED!

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AS OF SEPTEMBER 2009

- **Mondays-Fridays, 10:00 am-3:00 pm**, REACH Day Program for adults, for more information, see the article in this newsletter.
- **Mondays-Fridays, 3:00 pm-5:30 pm**, After School Adventures Program: for teens in a recreational-based after school program. Volunteer 1-5 days per week.
- **Monday nights, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm**, Family and Friends Bowling: At eSkape, Buffalo Grove
- **Tuesday, 6:15 pm-8:45 pm**, Special Olympics Basketball for adults
- **Wednesday, 6:45 pm-9:15 pm**, Programs for adults
- **Friday, 6:30 pm-9:30 pm**, Programs for adults
- **Saturday, 9:00 am-12:00 pm**, Fun Factory Program for children
- **Saturdays 10:00 am-3:00 pm**, Programs for adults
- **Sundays 1:30 pm-4:00 pm**, Programs for adults
- **Friday, October 23, 2009, 7:00 pm-9:30 pm**, Annual Harvest Dance (and other dances during the year), volunteers needed to assist with food and other activities.



Nancy Lindauer Sarne, Julie Sarne and Don Fisher at the 2009 Annual Meeting.



Ralph Lindauer



Ruth Lindauer

## a gift for THE CENTER'S FUTURE

When Nancy and her daughter Julie were invited to the podium at the 2009 Annual Meeting in June to accept an award in honor of her late father, Ralph, she told the group that, "Dad would have been so supportive of the idea of an endowment, if it had been in place when he set up his will."

According to Nancy Lindauer Sarne, her father never did anything for the recognition, but would have been happy to lend support to CEL's efforts and would be even more pleased if knowledge of his bequest to CEL encouraged others to do the same.

The Center had been informed that Ralph Lindauer, who died in May at the age of 97, had made a bequest to CEL, carrying out the wishes of his late wife, Ruth. Before Ruth died in 2001, the couple had created wills that left bequests to several nonprofit charitable organizations.

Nancy said her parents did not find this easy to do and did not want to talk about their wills, but they realized how important it was to make an estate plan. The origin of their wanting to leave charitable bequests came years ago, before seeking

bequests and other planned gifts was a common practice at smaller nonprofits.

The connection to the Lindauers came from CEL Past President and Trustee Don Fisher.

Don met Ralph in the 1950s when Ralph helped to train him to work at a plant that produced plastics. However, it was Ruth, who wanted to leave a bequest to CEL, with money allocated to the arts.

Ralph Lindauer was born in Silver City, New Mexico in 1912. He came from a family of modest means. Ralph didn't go to college because he had to work to support his mother and sister. After WWII, he moved to Glencoe. He worked in sales as a manufacturer's representative, calling himself a "Commercial Ambassador." He worked hard, saved and invested his money.

And now, due to this bequest from Ralph and Ruth Lindauer, The Center and our Members can benefit.

To learn more about how to include CEL in your will  
(or to notify us to add you to our Legacy Society) contact  
Randi Frank, CFRE, Director of Development at 847.315.9919  
or [randi@CenterForEnrichedLiving.org](mailto:randi@CenterForEnrichedLiving.org)



**Congratulations to golfer Don Goers, center,** for making a hole-in-one at CEL's 14th annual golf tournament on Monday, August 10th. Don won a two-year lease on a 2009 MINI Cooper Clubman from hole-in-one sponsor, Knauz Autopark.

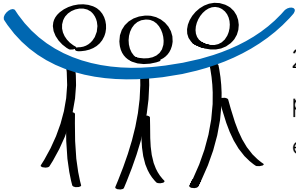
There was a lot for the event's co-chairs, Dave Coit, *left*, and Cal Wessman, *right*, to be happy about at the end of the day. The event, at the beautiful Merit Club, sold out, the weather was fine and we surpassed our budgeted goal, netting over \$100,000 for The Center. Thank you to title sponsor, HP, and everyone who made the event a huge success.

last look at

# summer!



This was one of our best summers yet. Whether hanging out by the pool with friends, or holding a car wash to beat the heat, campers enjoyed friends, fun and belonging during the seven weeks of summer day camp. Specialty camps included drama, horseback riding, creative arts, sports and cheerleading.



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**THE CENTER**  
 for enriched living

**Friends, Fun and Belonging for  
 People with Developmental Disabilities**

Non-Profit  
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 Permit No.216



## you spoke & we listened NEW PROGRAM INFORMATION

We know that our programs make a big difference in the lives of the people that come here regularly during the year. We listen to what you tell us and, if possible, we tweak our programs to meet your requests.

### Special Olympics Young Athletes (SOYA) – New Day

SATURDAY mornings kick off bright and early with a sports training program for 2-7 year olds. SOYA is geared towards helping children gain beneficial motor and coordination skills to compete in Special Olympics at the competition age of 8 years old.

### Theatre Workshop for Adults

Adults in search of dramatic opportunities are now able to join teens and young adults for the LOOKINGGLASS THEATRE WORKSHOP, a popular process-based theatre program that we have run since 2006. All can share in the fun of learning the Looking-glass method (using voice and body language to perform a story) and partnering with JCYS. This program will be held on SUNDAY afternoons beginning in October 2009.

### SPECIAL NEWS for

- REACH day program (for adults) has expanded from three days to **five days a week.**
- Our offsite Satellite After-School Programs have expanded.
  - Lake Forest HS will add a **second afternoon**
  - Niles Township High Schools will add a **second location on a different day** and continue at Niles North HS
  - Miner School (Arlington Heights) is adding a **second afternoon** each week for teens and a **third afternoon for younger children (9-13).**

save the date



## Chefs' Night & More!

**Monday,**  
**April 19, 2010**  
 5:30 – 8:30 pm  
 Lincolnshire Marriott