



Partners For Community Living

enhancing the quality of life for people served by
Choices In Community Living and Resident Home Association



Honors for our 'Dangerous Dame'

The League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area posthumously honored former Resident Home Executive Director Brenda Whitney as one of their 2021 Dangerous Dames in virtual ceremonies held on March 23. The event was established by the League in 2010 as part of its countdown to 100 years of women having the right to vote and the 100th anniversary of the Dayton League. The slogan for the ceremonies was "Celebrate the Women You Are, Because of the Women They Were."

The annual event was named in tribute to the suffragettes who fought for women's rights in Dayton, including holding rallies, parades and soap box speeches on street corners more than 100 years ago, resulting in local media referring to them as "dangerous to polite society", resulting in the League's term of Dangerous Dames of Dayton.

Brenda, who lost her long struggle with cancer in 2020, was honored along with Daj'za Demmings, Executive Director of Young Black Professionals and the Dayton Area Ohio Health Care Nurses. Jana Collier, publisher of Cox First Media/Dayton Daily News, was the keynote speaker. Members of Brenda's family and long-time friends were invited to the online ceremonies, where she was recognized for more than 30 years of service as RHA's executive director, as well as for her many leadership roles throughout Ohio in the de-institutionalization of state institutions, the founding of the Ohio Provider Resource Association, the establishment of many new residential providers throughout the Miami Valley region, the founding of Partners For Community Living and much more. She was also recognized for her other community commitments, including as a member of the League of Women Voters and her advocacy role with the Juvenile Court.

In sharing remembrances of Brenda during the ceremonies, Judy Leasure said of her, "Brenda was **not** some gentle wind. She was the gale force wind of a hurricane that constantly challenged us to do better; to live our lives out loud; to speak **and** to act as passionately for others as ourselves; to live, laugh and love fully – to always have a good story to share ... all that history wrapped up in her stories and no one to tell them now. A force of nature. A voice for the voiceless. **What a dame she was!**"

Self-advocates celebrate in April

Our two local Self-Advocacy groups, Voices of Greene County and Voices Matter/Montgomery County went virtual to host their Spring 2021 Self-Advocacy Conference. This year's Conference included one presentation each Friday during April via Zoom. The theme was How to Network & Involve Your Community in Your Advocacy. The Conference was planned and coordinated by members of the self-advocates group.

Hosted by the Montgomery and Greene County Boards of Developmental Disabilities Services, it kicked off on April 1 with a welcome given by Jeff Davis, Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. **What is a Self-Advocate** was the workshop topic, presented by the Self-Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center.

Other topics shared during the weekly zoom workshops included **Positivity**, presented by

Continued on page 2

Art goes virtual

COVID-19 has made it necessary for the annual **Art & Soul** juried art exhibit to go virtual for a second year. While there will be no in-person opening reception due to health concerns, the art selected for this year's Exhibit will be on actual display during the month of April at the Dayton Metro Library in downtown Dayton. Gallery videos, as well as the virtual Awards Ceremony will be posted on the **Art & Soul** Exhibit Facebook page on April 17. As in previous years, Hutcheson Pharmacy is our Event Sponsor.

The Exhibit is coordinated by Partners For Community Living and Toward Independence to celebrate the artistry and creativity of Ohio artists with developmental disabilities. Additional sponsors for our 14th annual Exhibit are: Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities; Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, in conjunction with ARC Industries; Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities; Hamilton County Board of Developmental Disabilities; Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities; and Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

All of the work in the 2021 Exhibit is for sale, with artists receiving 80% of the sale price, with the other 20% going to professional matting and framing of their work, as well as to provide cash awards for top ten and Best of Show artists. Art can be seen and purchased by going to <http://artandsoulohio.com/> or <https://art-soul-ohio.myshopify.com/>.



“A prince of a man.” That is how Kris Bergman (*Garber Road Home Manager – RHA*) remembers Jim Sheehan, calling him “equally kind and generous.” Jim and his wife Fran became long-time friends of Resident Home through the Bergman family. “Both Jim and Fran volunteered for our Fish Fry as far back as 1994,” shares Kris. “He continued to attend our Fish Fry after he became ill. When he could no longer attend, there would always be a monetary donation from him and Fran.”

We honor and thank the Sheehan family during their time of mourning in requesting memorial donations be made in his name to Resident Home.

**Thank you for your generous donations
(January 1 – March 31, 2021)**

CHOICES IN COMMUNITY LIVING

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Danette Addison | Dan Cochran | Mary Panstingel, <i>in honor of Tom Panstingel</i> |
| Julia Bell | Amy Fansher | Susan Wilson, <i>in honor of Tom Weaver</i> |
| James Cain | Charles Havener | |
| Clark County Board of DD | | |

RESIDENT HOME ASSOCIATION

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Sharma Baker, <i>in memory of Brenda Whitney</i> | Lexis/Nexis | Pete & Polly Roll |
| Lisa Glandon | Marathon Petroleum | Lori Singer |
| Lynda Hackett, <i>in memory of Brenda Whitney</i> | David & Bobbie Murphy | John & Carol Stinson |
| David Henkaline | Richard Potasky | Eunice Stueve |
| | Carmen & Ann Riazzi | Pamela Taylor |
| | David & Rhonda Rich | |
| | Ryne & Megan Rich | |

In Memory of James Sheehan

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Rita Baker | Meredith Helmer | Betty Murray Stoller |
| Christine Bernard | Maria Hofstetter | Andrew & Maria Nolan |
| Jimmie & Sue Brandell | Nicholas & Maureen Keyes | Nicholas III & Eileen Nolan |
| Tom & Lisa Dineen | Katie Lawler | Francine Parker |
| Richard & Julie Fischer | Mary Martin | Leigh Sempeles |
| Carol Frank | Juliann Morelli | Eric St. Pierre |
| Barry & Cynthia Gorman | Kevin O'Hearn/ Jane Westendorf | Wealth Planning Corporation |

PARTNERS FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Julia Bell | Jane Marquette, <i>in honor of Susan Haemmerle</i> | Tom Purkey |
| Rhonda Chandler | Joyce Marsh, <i>in memory of Roger & Charles Marsh, in honor of Debra Marsh</i> | Myrna Reese |
| Richard & Mary Sue Federle | | T. Maria Rucker |
| Rollin & Jennie Furnas | | Patricia Sales |
| Karen Gabbard | Ellen McCloskey | Anna Shaver |
| Andrea Ginnan | Susan Meyer | Becky Toomey |
| Diane Hayslip | Erin Nichols | Christopher Traylor |
| Lynette Hooper | Melodye Pennington | Ted Trzaska |
| Debra Horseman | Charnell Posey | Kesha Tuttle |
| Casey Marchal | | Tom & Kathy Weaver |

Give now through your Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

Do you have a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) or charitable checking account? If you do, you can recommend a charitable distribution from your DAF in support of Partners For Community Living. Please contact your financial or legal advisor or specific DAF representative.

You may make a bequest in your Will or Trust to Partners by listing them as a charitable beneficiary of your existing DAF.

You will need to share with your advisor that Choices In Community Living serves as the fiscal agent for Partners For Community Living and use charitable tax-exempt number 31-1126222.

For more information on how your existing DAF may be leveraged for current and future/legacy opportunities for Partners, please contact Vel Hux, Director of Development, at 937-576-0722 or at vhux@cicloh.com.

Partners For Community Living

**Double Your Gift's Impact ...
and at No Cost to You!**

Every year, billions of dollars of potential matched gifts are left in dusty vaults because donors like you did not know they were available.

Did you know that if your employer offers a matching gift program as part of corporate/ community giving, you could double or triple the impact of your contribution to Partners and/ or our partner agencies, Choices In Community Living and Resident Home Association? **Your gift of \$100 could become \$200 ... or \$300!** And all you needed to do was complete a form.

Who has a matching gift program in my community?

Here is a very short list of companies with matching gift programs in the Dayton area; AK Steel; Carmax; General Electric; Home Depot; Lexis-Nexis; Speedway; and State Farm Insurance. Thousands of companies have programs.

What do I do to find out if my company (employer) has a program?

Just simply call your employer's HR department. The information may also be available on your employer's website.

Would my gift be eligible?

The average minimum donation to qualify for a gift match is just \$25. Current employees as well as retirees could be eligible for a match.

How do I make a matching gift?

It's as easy as 1,2,3: 1) get a matching gift form from your employer, 2) complete the form, 3) mail your donation and completed form to Partners For Community Living, 1651 Needmore Road, Dayton, Ohio 45414. We will do the rest.

For more information, contact Vel Hux at 937-576-0722

Self-advocates celebrate... continued

Optimist International members Jennifer Kendo and Sue Armstrong, with the welcome by Nancy Banks, former Montgomery County Board Superintendent; **Community Safety**, presented by Beaver Creek Police Sgt. Phil Wesseler, with the welcome by John LaRock, Greene County Board Superintendent.

John Zimmerman, Vice-President of Miami Valley Fair Housing, was the presenter for the **Housing & Your Rights** session, with the welcome by Kamarr Gage, Montgomery County Board Assistant Superintendent.

Serena Anderson, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, was the final presenter on April 29, focusing on **Transportation**, with the welcome by Dr. Pamela Combs, Montgomery County Board Superintendent.