

home address

a publication of resident home association

Founding Partner of Partners For Community Living



Celebrating Pete!

This space on page 1 of each Resident Home newsletter has been reserved for a message from Pete Roll since he became Executive Director in 2009. There will be no message **from** Pete in this space at this time, but rather a message **about** Pete, as he prepares for his retirement on December 31, 2021.

It was a different world and different RHA when Pete began his service on October 5, 1987.

That Resident Home Association of 1987 had two directors. Brenda Whitney, who was the Executive Director when RHA was founded, was serving as Director of Community Affairs, while Shirley Fowler was serving as Director of Residential Services. At what was then the Montgomery County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Sally Young was the Case Manager Coordinator, which meant she had been Pete Roll's supervisor in his role as a case manager. Brenda and Sally were not only professional colleagues and powerhouse advocates known across Ohio, but they were also personal friends. Pete laughs at how that friendship was strained "when Brenda stole me from Sally."

Of all his many colleagues, Brenda's legacy looms largest for him. "She was just a dynamic presence," he shares, "she had this energy, relationships within the community and this wealth of knowledge that was unequalled by anyone else. Both Shirley and Brenda led by examples. Brenda always told me to be truthful, even when people didn't want to hear the truth ... to be open to changing because no leader has to have their way all the time."

Even with his experience as a case manager, he initially had a sense of "being in over my head when I took the RHA job. What had I gotten myself into! But both Brenda and Shirley had this way about them of easing me into things, encouraging me, allowing me to step back a little when I needed and to step forward when necessary."

There were others along the way that he credits as mentors who turned into lifelong friends, people like Tom Weaver, Bob Archer and Mark Schlater. "Tom (*retired Executive Director of Choices In Community Living*) was just a great mentor to me. There are not enough good words for him and others like Bob and Mark. Together we have been a part of some of the most remarkable and joyful moments anyone could ever ask from their career. There have been all those years with the Fish Frys, Bowl-A-Thon, bowling, Bingo ... events like Dining with the Stars, Beer Fest and, of course, our *Art & Soul* juried art exhibit ... Partners For Community Living, our *Best We*

No one would have applauded Pete Roll's leadership as executive director more than Brenda Whitney, Resident Home's first executive director, with Pete succeeding her as the second. She continued as his mentor and confidante following her retirement and his friend until her death.



Forget effort that earned us national recognition ... all things outside the realm of providing residential services ... all things imperative to building open and accessible communities where those we serve are seen and accepted as people first."

The biggest change he has seen over the years has come with the long journey to provide meaningful choices for residents. "In my early years, residents had Individualized Habilitation Plans (IHPs) that later became Individual Plans (IPs) and now Individual Service Plans (ISPs.)

In earlier times we thought we were providing meaningful life options and legitimate choices. At that time, we were. But as things evolved, we came to understand much more was needed. While residents were living in least restrictive environments, they needed more community inclusion. Today, residents are more in charge of their services. Providers are here to support their choices and help them accomplish goals they set for themselves."

Pete has been part of changing 'the system' and developing creative new services during his career, but he has also been changed. He speaks of how residents have taught him humility, patience, acceptance, gratitude. He shares that staff have taught him about dedication, putting others before yourself, respect for those who are served, how to do some of the hardest work there is with joyful and giving hearts. "My happiest moments have been witnessing the interactions of residents, seeing them at the Fish Frys, seeing their pride as they are recognized for their creativity and talent at *Art & Soul* and in so many other ways. The hardest part, the part you never get over, is the passing of residents who have been a part of our RHA family, some for more years than I have been at RHA, and the passing of long-time staff who showed me by example the true definition of dedication."

The days to December 31 are going by too quickly now, as Pete and RHA continue the process to recruit a new executive director. "This person is going to be stepping into an organization that is part of a nationwide workforce crisis. We can't recruit enough staff, and without staff, there can be no services. We are facing a human capital crisis across this

(continued on page 2)

Celebrate Pete! (continued)

nation. There is a real danger. It is scary to think of not having enough staff. The outcome of that is unthinkable! It means not moving forward but potentially moving backward, where we are required to have people not in least restrictive environments but in more congregated living arrangements because that is the only way we can provide staffing.

Our new director will not only need to be adept at keeping us running on a day-to-day basis, but they will also need to have a vision for the future, be strong enough to push the envelope, to fight for funding, legislation, and support. I am optimistic in that I see great potential for new services and growth for RHA, led by a director that will be embraced by our existing staff and who will continue the values that have guided us since 1966.”

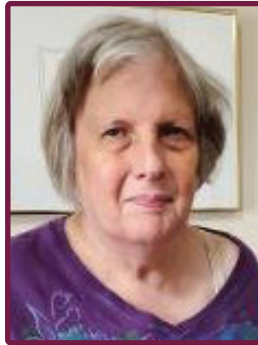
Thirty-five years of service can never be summed up in a few words. Thirty-five years of working with selfless Board members, supportive families, dedicated staff and caring community partners can never be summed up for someone like Pete who prefers to have the focus on his RHA family and not on himself. “I just want everyone, each person, to those like Brenda who are gone, to those like Tom and Bob who have preceded me in retirement, to those I will have such a hard time saying good-by to, I want each of you to know how thankful I am for the life-changing and life-enhancing opportunity to have worked here and I leave hoping I have made a difference. I will always value our shared experiences ... the challenges and successes ... the laughter and fun ... the grief and the losses ... the hopes and dreams we have lived together.

My wife Polly and I plan to enjoy our retirements surrounded by our family and watching our young grandchildren grow. As the entertainer Bob Hope always sang at the end of his performances, “thanks for the memories!”

Editor's Note: Be watching for our next issue to meet our new Executive Director and to read messages from colleagues and friends whose lives have been touched by Pete Roll.

Diane Gamblin, smiling in her Healthy Habits Cook Club apron, showcases her delicious dinner entrée prepared during one of her Cook Club classes held in the kitchen at the RHA office.

Helping adults with developmental disabilities be healthy through good food and friends is more than a theme or even a mission statement, it's the very essence of what the Healthy Habits Cook Club is all about. The nonprofit, founded by Chris Roll, provides cooking classes and nutrition education to adults ages 18 and up with developmental disabilities. Classes are provided in the community, including a recent series of classes held at Resident Home.



Resident Spotlight

Moving from one home to another can be difficult, but the transition has been an easy one for our newest resident. With so many changes in so many ways during 2021, it has been a year of good change for Connie Ross, who now calls our Elru home her home as well. Maintaining a close tie with her mother has been one of the reasons her transition to her new home has been so smooth. She sees her mother frequently, spending some weekends with her and going out shopping. She really enjoys being at home with her mother because she also enjoys her two cats. “I just love those cats,” she smiles. “I like being independent now and still see my Mom. My Mom is my best friend and my guardian angel. She likes me living here, too.”

While using a cane to assist with her mobility, she considers herself to be healthy. “My Mom and I got vaccinated,” she says proudly, “and I’m so glad.” She shares that she has not been afraid of COVID and not bothered by the changes, since staff have talked with her and helped her understand why it is so important to do lots of handwashing and wear a mask. “I’m so happy being here,” she says of her new home. She likes her housemates and staff. She likes when they make meat loaf and mashed potatoes and that they let her do things around the house that make her feel useful.

A graduate of Northview School, at 69 she likes attending day services at Empower four days a week. She likes eating out at restaurants, especially Bob Evans. “I really like Frisch’s onion rings and pumpkin pie,” she says. She has gone on a riverboat ride in Cincinnati with her housemates, and gone shopping in Santa Claus, Indiana, and is looking forward to more community trips. She also enjoys bowling.

At home she likes some quiet alone time in her room where she enjoys watching her favorite television shows, *The Golden Girls*, *Andy Griffith*, and *The Waltons*. She is looking forward to celebrating Christmas this year at her two homes, with her mother and at Elru, especially doing some decorating. “Maybe I’ll get presents in two places,” she chuckles.

Despite a pandemic and so many other changes, 2021 has been a good year for the woman who sees a silver lining in all things all around her. “I like it here,” Connie says fondly of her new home, “I just have a really good life.”

The Club emphasizes social interaction, cooperation, and structured activities as much as it focuses on cooking and nutrition. Chris teaches the classes, with support from her volunteers. Each class is preparation for healthy and independent living through healthy meal preparation, appropriate etiquette, as well as providing opportunities to develop friendships while dining together. Participants receive a Healthy Habits Cook Club backpack and a recipe binder where they keep the recipes from the dishes they prepare, organized by food categories.

During classes at RHA, participants followed various recipes to make their own individual entree and side dish or dessert. There are no processed foods used during class. They have made colorful and tasty dishes from all the food groups, using individual induction burners and safety knives. They have learned about spices and herbs, as well as different cooking techniques. According to Chris, during each class participants create a meal-for-one from start to finish at their own station and then dine together, except during times when COVID considerations when they make their meal and take it home. The focus is on well-balanced meals using quality ingredients.

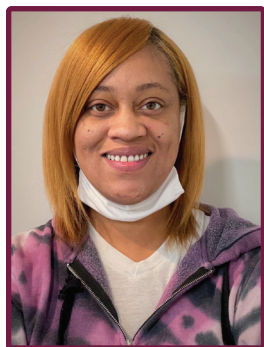
Three common requests from Healthy Habits Cook Club participants are pizza, macaroni and cheese, and spaghetti. "While we do encourage trying new foods, we also show them

how to make their favorite foods in a healthier way, such as adding veggies or using whole grain pasta. Everyone is happy," says Chris.

Chris founded Healthy Habits Cook Club as a nonprofit in 2018. Following, in her words, is her story of how her passion is now reaching and teaching our RHA cooks and others in the community.

After my son Pete was born and diagnosed with Down Syndrome, my life's work became navigating and taking advantage of all the resources available to ensure that his life was full and that he developed to his fullest potential. When he transitioned out of high school, I quickly realized how socially isolating life can be for an adult with developmental disabilities. They also often have more complex health issues than those without disabilities. I wanted to merge my passion for cooking and nutrition with my desire to work with adults with developmental disabilities. That's when Healthy Habits Cook Club was born.

Editor's Note: For more information on participating in the Healthy Habits Cook Club or to volunteer, please go to www.healthyhabitscookclub.org or contact Chris at cbris@healthyhabitscookclub.org.



Staff Spotlight

"The first time I saw Ebony in action as a DSP (*Direct Support Professional*) at our Riverbend home interacting with the ladies it made my heart smile," says Staff Trainer Lori Singer about one of our newest members of the RHA team. Ebony

Chancellor has been a member of that team since March and in just that short period of time she has the Riverbend ladies smiling and members of her team singing her praises. "Ebony is a great asset to Riverbend," says Home Manager Shannon Barnes. "She has a great personality and works well with our team. The ladies really enjoy her, especially when she takes them on outings in the community. She is just the kind of team player we have needed. I know she will continue to do a great job serving our ladies."

"I love helping people," shares Ebony about just one of the reasons she is so happy with her job. She is also happy about working for RHA. "This is a good organization with great opportunities to move up." She brings ten years of experience in working with people with disabilities to her important position at Riverbend. She has received recognition in her previous work experiences, including

Employee of the Month.

"The ladies I serve are wonderful, outgoing ladies. I was nervous at first coming to work during COVID, but I feel better since I got the vaccine. It is really important for me to be here working during COVID because our residents need us as their DSPs. It makes me feel good when I hear people say that DSPs are heroes, because it recognizes the work we do and why we do it."

Born in Dayton, she is a graduate of the Mound Street Academy. When not supporting the ladies at Riverbend, the mother of two enjoys online shopping and going out to eat and to the movies. She wants to do more in her work as a DSP. She is now taking additional training as part of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities add-on training program. That program is voluntary and requires 60 hours of training. She is eager to get the additional experience and skills.

Lori reflects on the first time she met Ebony during her interview. "Ebony seemed shy at first," she recalls, "but I could sense her passion and love for the field in the first few minutes of our conversation. The genuine, kind and respectful way she interacts with our residents is confirmation that she was the right choice."



Partners For Community Living

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



You can Adopt-A-Van

Would your life change without transportation?

Do you know that Choices In Community Living and Resident Home Association combined

operate a fleet of 90 vans as an integral part of our mission in support of our residents and clients. Our vans assure access to an open and integrated community, with professionally trained and caring staff.

Residents and clients depend on our vans as their only source of transportation to work, adult day programs, medical appointments, shopping and recreation and leisure-time activities. **Connie Ross, whom you met in our resident spotlight, couldn't have enjoyed that scenic trip to the Ohio River, shopping in Santa Claus, Indiana, or getting out and around her neighborhood if there were no RHA van there to support her.** Choices clients from Clark and Madison counties could not have taken their recent trip to LaComedia to enjoy dinner and a performance of *The Little Mermaid*. Fun-Fit participants can't get to their activities at YMCAs and recreation centers without us providing them transportation. This list can go on and on, with as many examples as there are residents and clients out and about in the community each day.

Accessibility to the community made possible by our transportation services is at risk. Our vehicle fleet is aging, with some more than 13 years old, with high mileage. As vans age they become less reliable and need more costly repairs. Like others in the community, we too have been the subject of crime with the theft of catalytic converters stolen right from our vans, at a cost of up to \$3,700 for replacement.

What are we doing to face these challenges? We have no choice but to replace catalytic converters when they are stolen. We maintain a rigorous maintenance schedule for our vans and that's one of the reasons we're able to keep them on the road for so long. And now we have made a commitment to focus our fundraising to help with the purchase of new vans and to cover repair expenses. Proceeds from our fundraising activities, like Jingle Bucks and Giving Tuesday will be designated to our Adopt-A-Van effort. We will designate individual gifts to Partners, Choices and Resident Home to this effort, unless otherwise directed by our donors.

What can you do to help with these challenges? Join us as an Adopt-A-Van partner with a tax-deductible gift in any amount, made payable to Partners For Community Living. Support our fundraising activities. Thank our drivers when you see them out in the community. Give a big smile to our residents and clients when you see them participating right alongside you as you are shopping, going out to eat, seeing a movie, going to a ball game and so much more. Your support means all that to them!



Of all the words we could share to show the importance of our vans to the quality of life of those we serve, all of them together could not equal the depth of that message as seen in the smile on the face of Loretta Wallace as she prepares to get out and about in the community.



Giving Tuesday is the annual Global Day of Giving, dedicated to uplifting communities, empowering nonprofits and celebrating kindness. It is seen as a kick-off of the year-end giving season. Giving Tuesday is scheduled this year on November 30.

Partners is participating in this day of giving as one of the nonprofits to receive donations. Donations we receive from our participation this year will be designated to our Adopt-A-Van project. To participate in Giving Tuesday with a gift to Partners, please go to <https://bit.ly/2021PartnersGT>.





SCAN ME

JINGLE BUCKS 2021



You can support people with developmental/intellectual disabilities and have an opportunity to win cash just in time for the holidays by purchasing your 2021 Jingle Bucks tickets. Proceeds from Jingle Bucks '21 will provide funds in support of Adopt-A-Van.

\$50 each or 3 tickets for \$100

Only 500 tickets are sold!!!

Tickets available October 15.

One winning ticket will be drawn on December 17.

Tickets available online at <https://bit.ly/JingleBucks2021> or by calling the offices of Choices In Community Living or Resident Home Association.

Checks may be made payable to:
Partners For Community Living/ Adopt-a-Van
1651 Needmore Road
Dayton, Ohio 45414

Summer of service

from Annie Shaver, Partners Development Coordinator

One of the favorite parts of my work this summer was supporting a group of 15 student volunteers and their three leaders as they spent three days with us. They joined us as part of their mission of service while they attended Student Life Camp at Cedarville University. Our volunteers drove all the way from the First Baptist Church in O'Fallon, Illinois. While it was a different group of young volunteers this year, volunteers from this church group have joined us previously as part of the annual Student Life Camp at Cedarville. We were very happy to welcome them back.

They brightened up our homes at RHA by sweeping and washing windows, inside and out. One day they had a car wash at Choices, where they washed about 20 vans. The next day they had a car wash at RHA, where they washed another ten or so ... including their own van that had traveled all those miles from Illinois ... commenting that their van was the dirtiest of all!

I was honored to tell them about Partners, RHA and Choices and to thank them for the important service they gave us, especially in washing our vans.

I shared that maintaining our vehicles helps them last longer, and that keeping them clean is an important part of that maintenance. With all our vehicles being larger and having wheelchair lifts and ramps, going to a car wash can cost more than \$20 for each van. With their service of washing 30 vans, they gave us a gift equal to \$600. That's \$600 that could be used for recreation, fun and other needs for our residents/clients.

They gave us gifts that cannot be measured as well. They shared great attitudes and didn't once complain about the heat or the tasks we had them do. They understood the connection between their service and the value of that work to our residents/clients. As they said prayers, they focused on our residents/clients with respect and dignity. What a memorable way to spend some summer days!



Thank you to our donors (June 26 – August 29, 2021)

Choices In Community Living

- Danette Addison
- Marc & Robin Anderson,
in memory of Joan Haworth
- Jim & Dina Cain
- Dan Cochran
- Amy Fansher
- Diane Hayslip
- Ray & Jane Hoover,
in memory of Joan Haworth
- Helen Husmann,
in honor of Tom Weaver
- Bob & Sally Mancz,
in memory of Joan Haworth
- Erin Nichols
- Myrna Reese
- Ralph & Judy Share,
in memory of Joan Haworth
- Becky Toomey
- Kesha Tuttle
- Tom & Kathy Weaver
- DaOnne Woolf,
in memory of Joan Haworth

Resident Home Association

- Rhonda Chandler
- Karen Gabbard
- Jennifer Hamblin
- David Henkaline
- Lynette Hooper
- Deb Horseman
- Nafeesa Huff
- Casey Marchal
- Susan Meyer
- Montgomery County Board of DDS
- David & Bobbie Murphy
- Melodye Pennington
- Charnelle Posey
- Rhonda Rich
- Ryne & Megan Rich
- Pete Roll
- Annie Shaver
- Edwin Shock,
in memory of Steve Shock
- Lori Singer
- John & Carol Stinson
- Christopher Traylor
- Richard Whitney,
in honor of Kris Bergman

Partners For Community Living

- Sue Ault,
in honor of Tom Weaver
- Arlene Deis,
in memory of Doug Hoyer
- Andrea Ginnan
- John Guhde,
in honor of Tom Weaver
- Jim & Lorraine Hurley,
in honor of Tom Weaver
- Ed & Janet Marrinan,
in honor of Tom Weaver
- Earl & Wynema Mebane,
in honor of Tom Weaver, in memory of Linda Connell
- Tom & Kathy Weaver



RESIDENT HOME ASSOCIATION

3661 Salem Avenue
Dayton, OH 45406-1661
Phone: (937) 576-0722
Fax: (937) 278-2240
www.rhadayton.com
www.partnersohio.com

Return Service Requested



RHA is guided by a policy-making board of volunteers representing families, DD organizations, businesses, and the community.

Gary Newton, *President*
Carl Eubank
Tom Gmeiner
Rev. Michael Pratt
Steve Schulte

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dayton, Ohio
Permit No. 617

*Home Address is written and distributed through the office of **Partners For Community Living**. Please contact us at 937-576-0722 to update your mailing or email addresses, to receive our newsletters and event information or to remove your name from our mailing list.*

We remember Steve

Nowhere at Resident Home is the loss of Steve Shock felt more deeply than at our Greenhill home, his home since he joined our extended family in 2002. His 72 years were filled with the love of family and joy in exploring his many interests. In all the ways we remember him, the photo of him in his chef hat speaks to his adventurous spirit. He really liked the adventure of cooking and wanted to be called Chef Steve. He wore his hat and his chef coat when he helped prepare meals as part of our Adult Day program in the kitchen at the office. It wasn't Wednesday at RHA without Chef Steve putting his special touches on the meal.

Everything Steve did, he did with passion. He gave 100% to the things he loved. Bowling was one of those things, out in the community at bowling centers, as well as at home with hours of Wii bowling so he could always be improving on his personal best. He also loved cars, which included admiring them at the antique car shows he attended. He enjoyed looking through car magazines, dreaming about the ones he wanted. He was especially proud of being a college student and would often be seen wearing his Sinclair Community College t-shirt to show his school spirit. He took such pride in the ongoing art classes he took at Sinclair.

He retired from MONCO after many years and was happy to have so much time to pursue so many of his interests. Nothing meant as much to him as family, those who became his family at Greenhill, and none more important than his father. He enjoyed the times they spent together, whether it was weekend visits or just a few minutes.

We remember Steve for a life well lived, struggling still with the loss, yet filled with gratitude because his life was a gift to us all.

Editor's Note: Thank you to Vicki Servais for sharing memories of Steve.

