



The Path to Opportunity

the people's path

Newsletter

Fall 2009

President's Message

By Robert Canuel



As usual, there is much going on at the agency that I could comment about for this article. Thanks to the hard work of many people, there is always a new or expanded service to work

on and talk about. It is a pleasure to be able to be a part of such a high degree of energy, commitment and ability.

Several recent events got me to thinking about a topic I don't always focus a lot of my comments on but is one of the great assets of our organization. It is our Board of Directors. As a group, these people give of their time, their energy and their community reputation to help us become a better and more effective organization. Each of them brings a unique set of skills and experiences to our agency and have always been there to support our efforts in the community.

I could spend time speaking about the positive qualities of each and every member but I want to focus my comments for this article on two of them because of recent events in their lives. I think they are good examples of what it means to be a giving member of a community and we are fortunate that both of them have been willing to be active participants in People, Incorporated and the Fall River community.

First, I would like to acknowledge Cynthia Cardoza. Many of you may know her as the CEO of the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern

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People, Incorporated achieves CARF Accreditation



Day Services completed a three-day survey by the Commission on Accreditation on Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) in June. The visit resulted in a three-year accreditation from CARF. CARF is a private, not-for-profit organization that promotes quality rehabilitation services. It does this by establishing standards of quality for organizations to use as guidelines in developing and offering their programs or services to consumers.

To achieve a three-year accreditation, People, Incorporated proved its ongoing commitment and support to continually enhance the quality of its services and

programs with the focus on consumer satisfaction.

Congratulations go out to all staff involved for achieving this success!

People, Incorporated announces new F.A.C.E. Director



Robert Canuel, President and CEO is pleased to announce the appointment of Jenny DiBlasi as the Director of Family Advocacy and Community Education (F.A.C.E.). Jenny will assume the leadership role of this newly developed division of People, Incorporated which includes the programs of Community and Family Supports, Diabetes Association of Massachusetts, the Community Learning Center, Spiritual Connections, Recreation, Training, United Partnerships, and Program

and Staff Development.

The Family Advocacy & Community Education Division (F.A.C.E.)

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Locations

People, Incorporated
Main Office
1040 Eastern Avenue
Fall River, Massachusetts 02723
Phone: (508) 679-5233
Fax: (508) 679-6211
www.peopleinc-fr.org

Day Services
Vocational Services
Troy Productions
900 Riggerbach Road
Fall River, Massachusetts 02720
Phone: (508) 679-5230
Fax: (508) 679-5382

Day Habilitation Services
30 Third Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02721
Phone: (508) 324-4401
Fax: (508) 324-4404

Residential Services
Community & Family Supports
Project New Beginnings
Spiritual Connections
624 Eastern Avenue
Fall River, Massachusetts 02723
Phone: (508) 679-5236
Fax: (508) 837-6885

Children's Services
Greater Fall River
Early Intervention Program
636 Rock Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02720
Phone: (508) 675-5778
Fax: (508) 675-9889

Greater Fall River Healthy Families
636 Rock Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02720
Phone: (508) 679-3078
Fax: (508) 672-6024

Young Parents' Learning Center
B.M.C. Durfee High School
360 Elsbree Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02720
Phone: (508) 675-8194
Fax: (508) 675-8186

Early Intervention Partnership Program
636 Rock Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02720
Phone: (508) 675-5778
Fax: (508) 675-9889

Carriage House Children's Center
636 Rock Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02720
Phone: (508) 679-4110
Fax: (508) 675-9889

Diabetes Association Inc.
170 Pleasant Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02720
Phone: (508) 672-5671
Fax: (508) 672-4546

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

Massachusetts, Inc. I would also think that many of you have also had the experience of being positively touched by a member of her organization when personal or family medical issues have affected you. As you can imagine in her professional role, she is extremely busy and like many of us who have chosen to manage large agencies, under constant stress and pressure to manage our organizations well. Cindy has made her organization an extremely effective and successful part of our community. Under her direction, the VNA has grown and added valuable and necessary services to our community. At People, Incorporated, she has been a constant source of support for me and I have grown to value her input and her friendship. She has shown herself to genuinely care about the community and has sacrificed much of her limited personal time to help us become successful.

On December 31, 2009 Cynthia Cardoza will retire from her position at the VNA and at the end of our current fiscal year, will be stepping down from her positions on our board as treasurer and Chair of our Finance Committee. She has been a true friend of our agency for many years and will always

have my trust and respect as a person and a professional.

Second, I would like to acknowledge Will Flanagan. Will is one of our newer members and as I am sure most of you know is seeking to become our next mayor. Will has been a quiet and steady source of support for me and is yet another example of the type of people that serve on our board. He is someone who has decided to step up as a board member and as a citizen of our community to try to make things better for the people of Fall River. Just like Cynthia and the many other members of our Board, he is willing to step forward and give his time, energy and skills to make us a better organization and help us together to make Fall River a better community.

I know that there are many people in our community who participate in activities without self interest. These people do so because they care and want to help. I appreciate them all. Most of all though, I genuinely appreciate, applaud and thank the members of the Board of Directors at People, Incorporated because like Will and Cindy, each of them regularly gives of themselves to help us help our community. Thank you.

CNA Program Graduates 17 Employees



Graduates of the CNA certification program.

During the summer months, 17 employees of People, Incorporated completed a Certified Nursing Assistant (C.N.A.) certificate training program at Bristol Community College. This course consisted of basic nursing skills that were taught through classroom lectures, the practice of skills in a fully equipped nursing laboratory, and a supervised clinical experience in a health care facility. Upon completion, all

students are eligible to take the Massachusetts state certification examination. As we adapt to the ever changing needs of those we serve within our community, we are also dedicated to provide to our employees growth opportunities within our agency. This course, which was fully funded by People, Incorporated, enables our employees the opportunity for such growth within our Residential Division in homes where certification is required. Congratulations to all graduates!

People, Incorporated celebrates the opening of our Ling Street Home



Pictured, students of Diman who worked on the Ling Street Home and participated in the open house.

On August 27, 2009, People, Incorporated and Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School hosted more than 100 guests at their open house to celebrate the completion of their first built, fully accessible home.

People, Incorporated, in collaboration with Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School, broke ground in September of 2008 to begin the construction of a four bedroom, fully accessible home at 31 Ling Street in Fall River, MA.

For over 40 years, the mission of People, Incorporated has been to strengthen our community for each of our members by providing premier services. As our residential population ages and their needs change, it is imperative that our Agency be fully receptive to those needs and adapt where necessary. This single-level home was built with overhead tracking, extra wide doorways and halls and special arrangements to accommodate those individuals who may use wheelchairs. By providing fully accessible homes, we are able to provide a consistent, flexible and individualized service based on each person's strengths and needs. Maintaining independence for clients is very important to People, Incorporated.

Part of our mission is to create opportunities for people to remain in the community and specifically to live as independently as possible while providing a sense of belonging and family. This partnership with Diman allows us to continue serving someone that might have otherwise had to leave their residence and go into a nursing home setting.

This was the first time a home has been constructed by Diman that was fully handicapped-accessible. Between 80 and 100 students participated in the project and the Diman house-building program includes the school's shops in carpentry, electricity, facilities management, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, metal fabrication and welding, and plumbing. The program started in the early 1970s with a student-built house on North Ogden Street and has included houses in the other school communities, Somerset, Swansea and Westport.

People, Incorporated is also grateful for the generosity of the following companies who donated items towards the success of this home – Cardis Furniture, Harvey Business Products, Beacon Sales, Hetzler Contracting and the Fall River Gas company.



Pictured, Nick Cardi, Bob Canuel, Ron Cardi, and Pete Cardi.

People, Incorporated announces new F.A.C.E. Director

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offers individuals and families of all abilities with support and education to help them be successful. F.A.C.E. collaborates with a wide range of community partners to ensure that the needs of individuals with life challenges and their families are met. F.A.C.E. programs offer information, support, technical assistance and workshops for individuals, families and the professionals who work with them. By providing this comprehensive approach to family support, we improve the lives of those we serve and the community.

Jenny DiBlasi has been the executive director of United Neighbors of Fall River for the last 3 ½ years. As executive director, Jenny helped raise a greater awareness in the community of the organization's work, expanded programming and funding and significantly increased collaborations with community and business partners. Some of her accomplishments have included creating a major community awareness campaign for foster care; which helped increase support and awareness for foster children and families, developing sensitivity and advocacy trainings that are being utilized by the Fall River Public Schools, assisted in the creation of a statewide initiative for the Department of Children

and Families and mobilized hundreds of residents and community providers to become active in different events and activities of United Neighbors. Jenny is best known for her ability to bring the community together for purposes of collaboration.

Prior to her work as executive director, Jenny was a family support advocate with United Neighbors of Fall River for over 4 years. In this role, Jenny worked to create systems of family support with the Department of Children and Families and the community. She worked tirelessly to ensure that families were respected and had a voice in planning. She wrote the statewide protocols for the Family Advocacy Initiative and trained communities across the state.

"Jenny is a talented, creative and collaborative individual who will assume the task of helping to develop and sustain opportunities for family members to receive the support, information and guidance they need to provide increased opportunities and supports for their family members that face developmental challenges. We are fortunate to have Jenny on our team." stated Bob Canuel, President and CEO of People, Incorporated.

United Way Kicks Off Its Annual Giving Campaign



Megan Scheffer, Accounting Manager

The United Way held its first annual wiffle ball tournament on September 16, 2009 at North Park in Fall River to kick off its annual giving campaign. Bill Perkins, Mark Duval, Pamela O'Neill, Megan Scheffer and Kerrie Cordeiro represented "Team People".

Our Agency is an enthusiastic supporter of the United Way. Many of our employees support it via volunteerism or by making a pledge during the annual fund raising drive which we are rolling out this month and will continue over the next couple of months.

Last year, People, Incorporated employees contributed over \$14,500 from payroll deductions to the campaign! These funds helped support over 35 agencies that provide a diversity of services in the Greater Fall River area to people like you and me and our families.

Since 1981, The United Way has provided funding to the Diabetes Association of Massachusetts, United Partnerships and the Recreation Department of People, Incorporated. There is no other program like the Recreation Department here at People, Incorporated and as you know, this is very important to the people we serve.

If you would like further information about our annual United Way campaign or how you can make a difference, please contact Pamela O'Neill at (508) 679-5233 extension 11.

Dorothy Arruda Receives The Mildred F. Midura Scholarship Award



Pictured: Members of the Mildred F. Midura Scholarship Committee from left to right, Robin Jones, Mary Midura, Bill Perkins, Dorothy Arruda (recipient) Mark Duval, Bob Canuel and Megan Scheffer.

Dorothy Arruda was awarded the first Mildred F. Midura Memorial Scholarship award in August of 2009.

A native of Fall River, Millie, as she was fondly known, was employed in our Children's Services Division for almost 20 years. Born to Polish-American parents who were products of the Great Depression, Millie had little means but great determination with regard to her education and entered college relying on the support of scholarships. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing. Millie devoted her life to enriching the lives of children and their families throughout the Fall River Community. Sadly, Millie recently passed away after her courageous battle with Cancer.

The Mildred F. Midura Scholarship was established, through unanimous vote, by our Board of Directors in March of 2009. The scholarship is available to current, active employees of People, Incorporated who are pursuing a college education as either a full time or part time student. "We were looking for exceptional employees who plan on working toward a challenging yet rewarding career which can have a major impact upon the quality of life in our communities. Dorothy Arruda is the true embodiment of the mission of People, Incorporated and I could not have been more delighted and in full agreement with the committee's choice of Dorothy as our first recipient of this award", stated Bob Canuel, President and CEO.

Dorothy began her employment at People, Incorporated in 1995 as a residential counselor, was appointed as the Human Rights coordinator in 2001, became a residential house manager in 2004 and was then promoted within the same year to the Residential Coordinator's position she currently holds. Dorothy was also appointed additional responsibilities as the agency's human rights trainer and worked on promoting our agency's Human Services Academy.



Mark Your Calendar

Community Celebrations Fifties Dance

Friday, October 23, 2009

6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Liberal Club

20 Star Street, Fall River

Call Marilyn Grubb at
508.679.5236 x17 for tickets.

"Christmas in Song" concert featuring the Newport Navy Choristers to benefit Camp Kyle

Sunday, December 6, 2009

4:00 pm

First Baptist Church

228 North Main Street, Fall River

Call Sharon Vieira from the First Baptist
Church at (508) 672-5381 for tickets.

Diabetes Association Night with the Providence Bruins

Friday, January 29, 2010

Gametime 7:05 pm

Dunkin' Donuts Center

Providence, RI

Call Bobby Forand at
508.672.5671 for tickets.



DIABETES ASSOCIATION INC. NEWS



Pictured, campers and staff of Camp Kyle.

Camp Kyle Another Huge Success

Thanks to all of our staff and volunteers, this year's Camp Kyle was a huge success!

Camp Kyle is a friends place where youth with diabetes, ages 5-14, their siblings and friends benefit from hands-on learning experiences in diabetes management and support.

Camp Kyle runs for four weeks during the months of July and August and is held at the beautiful Camp Buxton in Rehoboth, MA. Camp Kyle's small enrollment and a staff-to-camper ratio of one-to-four ensures a quality camp program in which the campers receive plenty of attention, supervision and a variety of camp experiences. The program includes camp crafts, sports and games, nature/nutrition, and diabetes education.

Our campers took four field trips this summer to the Capron Zoo, The Tombs, Fantasy Land and to Fenway Park. Magician Chris Bolter, Top Rope Promotions and their wrestlers visited camp along with many other special events which were planned throughout the summer session.

Special recognition goes out to Carol Woodruff, in what was her final year at Camp. Carol has been a volunteer for the past 17 years and provided the Arts and Crafts program to our campers.

Camp Kyle served a total of 81 campers throughout its four week schedule with 44 campers in week one, 45 in week two, 63 in week three and 51 campers in week four.

Campers enjoyed our weekly cookouts in which friends and families were invited to attend. Special thanks to volunteer Mitch Sweet, "Camp Kyle's Chef" for the great job he did cooking burgers and hot dogs for all who attended!



Pictured, chef Mitchell Sweet grills up some hamburgers and hotdogs for one of our weekly cookouts.



DIABETES ASSOCIATION INC. NEWS

DAI Announces New Program Director



People, Incorporated is pleased to announce the appointment of Candice Foster as the program director for the Diabetes Association of Massachusetts.

In her last position, Candice was the Associate Executive Director of the Northwest Connecticut YMCA where she

was involved in program development, childcare, aquatics, and camp. Candice was the previous Director for the town of Wareham Recreation

Department and currently works as a part-time paramedic for the Town of Wareham.

Under the direction of the Family Advocacy and Community Education (F.A.C.E.) division of People, Incorporated, Candice will assist with the development of goals to increase youth programming, family education, and expand the assistance of the Diabetes Association of MA to the newly diagnosed clients within our community. Candice can be reached at the Diabetes office at 170 Pleasant Street, #1, Fall River, MA 02721 (508) 672-5671. You may also contact Jenny DiBlasi, Director of F.A.C.E. at (508) 679-5233 extension 27.

Diabetes Association takes a proactive approach towards the prevention and management of Diabetes

The Diabetes Association is starting two new programs to help the prevention of Type 2 diabetes in youth through education, nutrition and exercise.

The first program is called Adopt-a-School, and benefits families of Carlton M. Viveiros Elementary School in Fall River. This is a four-week program in which families will work together with a nutritionist in making healthy snacks. Kids will learn about such important exercise topics as stretching, core, cardio and motivation/goal setting before playing entertaining and energy filled games. Additionally, other family members will be learning about Type 2 diabetes, general nutrition, food label reading and healthy shopping, healthy snacks and the pros and cons of eating out.

The second program is called Families Preventing Diabetes, which will take place at Howland Fitness in New Bedford. The program follows the same premise as Adopt-a-School, except it is a six week program and benefits middle school age families.

Please contact Bobby Forand at 508-672-5671 or rforand@diabetesma.org if you have any questions.



Agnes Hogue reaches milestone!



On August 30, 2009 over 80 friends and staff members came together to celebrate Agnes Hogue's 90th birthday aboard The Bay Queen.

Over 30 years ago, Agnes joined the People, Incorporated family within the residential

services division. "Agnes lived independently with a house mate years prior with minimal supervision and she eventually transitioned into a 24 hour residential model. Agnes is as doggedly independent today as she was when she first came to People, Incorporated from the P.A. Dever School and almost from the start, integrated very well into the program," stated Mark Duval, Director of the Residential Division of People, Incorporated. "Agnes embraced her new surroundings, her new housemates and her new home. In fact,

when new individuals moved into the home, Agnes immediately developed a maternal role and would many times "tuck in" her housemates when it was time for bed," states Duval. Agnes, who lives with one of her best friends, Marguerite Kennedy, loves living in her home and loves the friendships she shares with everyone associated with People, Incorporated. Fatima Mendes, house manager with People, Incorporated and a direct caregiver to Agnes, stated that Agnes was so excited to celebrate her birthday on the Bay Queen with all her friends this year and was equally excited when she saw her birthday cake which was made in her likeness.

"Agnes is a shining example what makes our agency a truly remarkable asset to the community. As our population ages, People, Incorporated consistently adapts to meet the ever-changing needs of those we serve in order for them to continue to lead as independent a life as possible" stated Mark Duval.

Agnes, who enjoys word searches, shopping, "mystery" car rides, picnics at Colt State Park, Walmart and the Christmas Tree shop still takes time for her weekly manicures as well as dinner out. Happy Birthday Agnes!

Celebrating the Joy of Motherhood



Current and former members of the Mommy and Me group gathered at Heritage State Park on August 27, 2009 to celebrate the joy of motherhood. One mom that attended was in the first ever Mommy and Me group back in 2007. The event was hosted by the People, Incorporated Early Intervention Partnership Program. Over 16 families were in attendance and participated in the toddler relay, family photos, and T-shirt decorating. No one left empty handed. Some of the moms won a raffle prize, everyone took home a homemade T-shirt for their child, but most importantly, they all left with a small notebook filled with each others numbers. It was a great success and we hope to make this an annual event. For more information on the Mommy and Me Group please contact Megan Mulligan at 508-675-5778.

Carriage House Children's Center and Young Parents Learning Center Earns National NAEYC Accreditation



People, Incorporated has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young

Children (NAEYC) – the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals.

“We're proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards,” said Robert Canuel, CEO and President of People, Incorporated. “NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation, both centers went through an extensive Self-Study process, measuring the program and its services against the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. The program received NAEYC Accreditation after a site visit by NAEYC Assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the ten program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years.

In the 24 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. Almost

8,000 programs, serving one million young children, are currently accredited by NAEYC – approximately 8 percent of all preschools and other early childhood programs. “The NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for preschools, child care centers and other early childhood programs,” said Mark Ginsberg, Ph.D., executive director of NAEYC. “People, Incorporated's NAEYC Accreditation is a sign that they are a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education, and to help give all children a better start.”

The NAEYC Accreditation system has set voluntary professional standards for programs for young children since 1985. In September 2006, the Association revised program standards and criteria to introduce a new level of quality, accountability, and service for parents and children in child care programs. The new standards today reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development. NAEYC is committed to utilizing the newest studies and analysis on positive child outcomes to ensure young children continue receiving the highest-quality care and education possible.

The NAEYC Accreditation system was created to set professional standards for early childhood education, and to help families identify high-quality preschools, child care centers and other early education programs. To earn NAEYC Accreditation, a program must meet each of the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards. Programs are accredited by NAEYC for a five-year period.

People, Incorporated C.A.R.E.'s Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations to Anna Raposo for being voted PI C.A.R.E.'s Employee of the Quarter. Anna received a nomination from her Supervisor which put her into the employee spotlight section of our HR Newsletter. Anna has been working as a member of the Early Childhood Education team for 21 years. She is dedicated to providing quality education experiences for young children. She diligently continues to work towards her Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education by taking courses in the evening. Anna most recently

encouraged a co-worker to pursue her degree as well. Anna is a true asset to the agency and we are lucky to have her as part of the team.

In October, Anna was presented with a \$50 gift certificate as well as multiple People, Incorporated items. Thank you Anna for all of your hard work. If there is someone that you would like to nominate for our PI C.A.R.E.'s Employee recognition program please call 508-679-5233 and speak to Jennifer Lazaro (ext. 46).

Building for Our Future



Somerset Home 1665 Read Street Somerset, MA

In response to a demonstrated need for fully accessible homes within our community, People, Incorporated, in collaboration with Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School, broke ground in September of 2009 to begin the construction of a four bedroom, fully accessible home at 1665 Read Street in Somerset, Massachusetts. This is the second home that is being built in partnership with Diman and completion is expected by June of 2010.

Our new home, which will be a 2,800 square-foot ranch house with four bedrooms and 2 ½ baths, will feature handicap accessible ramps, extra wide hallways and doorways to accommodate individuals that use wheelchairs. As with our newly finished, fully accessible home on Ling Street in Fall River, this home will be used by individuals with disabilities supported in the Residential Services Division at People, Incorporated.

Berkley Home 96 Jerome Street Berkley, MA

In addition to the construction of our home in Somerset, People, Incorporated was awarded a contract with the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services to construct a five (5) bedroom, fully accessible home in Berkley, MA. Just like our homes in Somerset,



and Fall River, this home will be fully accessible, and will be used by individuals with disabilities supported in the Residential Services Division at People, Incorporated. This project is expected to be finished by November 2009.

If you would like additional information about this program or other collaborative efforts going on in the Residential Services Division, please contact Mark Duval at 508-679-5236.



1040 Eastern Avenue
Fall River, MA 02723

Helping People, Incorporated

As a non-profit agency, we rely on the generosity of members of the community, family members and our employees to help keep our mission alive. Many people often ask, "How can I help?" There are many different ways you can make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities and other at-risk life situations. You can invest your time by volunteering for one of the many programs supporting children and adults in the Fall River community, you can make a donation of a product or service to any of our programs, or you can remember People, Incorporated in your will and as you plan your estate. There are so many ways to give back to the agency that has been providing quality services for over 40 years and has directly impacted the lives of over 1,000 families in 2009 alone!

Please consider making a contribution to People, Incorporated. As a 501 (c) (3) organization, your donation may be tax deductible. To donate, please make check payable to People, Incorporated and mail to our administrative office at 1040 Eastern Avenue, Fall River, MA 02723 ATTN: Director of Communication & Development.

