

Celebration of the RRA Community And RRA Idol 2006!

Come one. . . come all to the most festive and fun event of the summer! As the summer comes to a close, we would like to take the time to thank our wonderful staff and donors who have helped us make so many great things happen at RRA.

We would also like to invite you and your spouse or "significant other" to be our guests for our fantastic **Celebration of the RRA Community** for staff, donors, clients, and their families on **Saturday evening, August 26, 2006 from 5:30 – 8:30 pm** at Roswell Adult Recreation Center on Grimes Bridge Road in Roswell. You and your guest(s) will be treated to an event like none other! **We promise!!**

You will be able to witness the very heart and soul of RRA, by hearing stories from several of the people we support, honor the staff and clients of RRA, and have the opportunity to hear some of our best talent during the 45-minute "**RRA Idol 2006 Show**" and so much more. Many who attended the RRA Idol Event a year and a half ago said it was the most fun event at RRA they had ever attended!

The **Celebration of the RRA Community** will be casual, so come dressed in your shorts or sportswear, enjoy a nice catered BBQ meal from Slopes in Roswell, and prepare yourself to come away feeling very happy and thankful that RRA is the organization you serve!



Please RSVP to Christi Rickett, RRA's receptionist (770.664.4347, Ext. 101) as to whether or not you can come and who will be coming with you. **Please mark your calendar now** and save the date for **Saturday, August 26th** and plan to attend this fabulous, festive, and fun event! And come prepared to laugh, have a great time, and enjoy some great BBQ!

Thanks so much for all you do to support those we serve at RRA!

We are looking forward to a fun time together with you and those we serve at RRA! ♦

choices!

Affirming the unique and intrinsic worth of adults with developmental disabilities, RRA supports choices made by those we serve, so they are empowered to lead the lives they desire.



YOUR CHOICES IN THIS ISSUE

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **5th Annual Fashion Show** will be held at the Atlanta Athletic Club on **Friday, Sept. 8th**
- **13th Annual Golf Classic** will be **Tuesday, Oct. 10th** at Crooked Creek Golf Club
- **A Celebration of the RRA Family & RRA Idol 2006 - Staff, Client, Families, and Donor Appreciation Event** will be held **Saturday, August 26th from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Roswell Adult Recreation Center on Grimes Bridge Road in Roswell.
- **RRA's 19th Annual Gala** will be **Saturday, March 3, 2007** at the Crowne Plaza Ravinia Hotel

UPCOMING TRAININGS

- | | |
|--|---|
| • July 10-New Hire Pt. 1 at North 9:30-4:30 pm (lunch provided this day) | • July 19-First Aid/CPR Tng. at South 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm |
| • July 11-New Hire Pt. 1 at North 9:30-4:30 pm | • July 20-Ostomy (Ileostomy) at South 10:00 am - 12:00 noon |
| • July 12-New Hire Pt. 1 at North 9:30-4:30 pm | • July 20-Ostomy (Ileal Conduit) at North 1:30 - 3:30 pm |
| • July 17 - Diabetes Tng. at North 9:30 am-1:30 pm | • July 25-Defensive Driving Pt. 1 at North 5:30-9:30 pm |
| • July 17 - Seizure Tng. at North 2:00 pm-3:30 pm | • PCA Training 9 am - 4 pm |
| • July 17-Self Catheterization at North 3:45 pm-4:45 pm | • July 29-CPR Tng. at NFRH 9:00 am-12:00 pm |
| | • July 31-Defensive Driving Pt. 2 at North 5:30-9:30 pm |

To get the dates and times for other upcoming trainings in August and September, please visit RRA's web site at: www.iraga.org and click on the **Services & Calendar** link and scroll down the page to view the schedules listed in the right hand column. **Thanks!**

ALL WE CAN SAY Is. . .WOW!

*By Joyce Edwards,
Senior Director of Support Services*



Seth Barocas has a lot to be proud of. He's achieved a goal most of us only dream about. He's changed his life and he's touched the hearts of people around him.

This is mainly Seth's story, but it's also Lorraine's story, Amy's story, Wakita's story, and Jim's story because they are Seth's Support Service Team. They are people who listened to Seth, heard his dreams, and then helped him make them come true. It's also the story of RRA at its best, and, finally, it's the story of everyone who contributes their time, talents, and gifts to RRA.

This particular story begins in August of 2005 when Seth was being medicated for high blood pressure and high cholesterol. At just 27 years old he was significantly overweight and had tried a series of medications and diets all to no avail.

That's when Lorraine Aull became the manager of Seth's group home. When Lorraine first met Seth she saw someone

who was thoughtful, helpful, and hardworking. As she began listening to him – really listening – she learned about Seth's dreams to lose weight, make friends, and live in his own apartment.

She also worried about his future because of his medical problems. Then, she decided to do something about his future. She talked with her supervisor, Amy Hines, and they began their support for Seth by giving him the opportunity to participate in Weight Watchers.

At first, Seth was scared, but he really liked it when the people at

Weight Watchers learned his name, accepted him, and shared with him. Changes didn't happen all at once, but the encouragement from Amy and Lorraine coupled with support from his new friends at Weight Watchers gave Seth the strength he needed to take control of his life.

After he lost his first 2.4 lbs, Seth said that it made him feel good about himself. The next morning Lorraine wrote, "Seth feels good about his weight loss. He even sang today."

That's when Seth took over. He hasn't missed a single Weight Watchers session since. He began watching what he ate like a hawk. When people in Seth's group home went out for a special dinner at a buffet, Seth only ate salad.

As the weeks passed Lorraine wrote that Seth was becoming more outgoing. Success led to more success. On November 16th, with his supporters at Weight Watchers all around him for the weekly weigh in, Seth learned that he had lost 5 pounds from the previous

Please visit RRA's brand new Web Site at www.iraga.org!

(Continued from page 1)



week. The next day Lorraine wrote, "Seth was so excited he danced all night at the recreational center. He began interacting with his peers in a whole new way."

As Seth continued to lose weight over the months that followed, Lorraine described

another transformation. "Now Seth is vibrant. It's almost as if he has come out of a cocoon. He dances around and wants to go out. He reminds me of a warrior who has fought his way back."

Jim Davis, Support Associate at Seth's group home also sees the change. As he says, "It's a joy to see Seth now. He's more upbeat, more of an extrovert. He's just happy. You can tell."

Seth's successes haven't come without difficulties. In January, 2006, Seth lost his long-term job at Value City when the work force was scaled back. That's when RRA Employment Specialist, Wakita Cunningham-Jones, came into the picture. She helped Seth find not one job, but two.

Seth's new found confidence, positive outlook, and strong work ethic led to on-the-spot job offers at both a hotel and a Walgreen's store. Successes in both these new jobs have in turn inspired even higher levels of self confidence in Seth. His whole demeanor has changed. His manager at Walgreen's is delighted with Seth. He says, "Seth changes people's attitudes"

All this confidence and success have also opened Seth's vision of his future. He doesn't see life in the same way that he used to. He talks about all the things that he wants to do that he didn't ever think he could like having relationships, driving, and living in his own apartment.

Seth has now lost 60.5 pounds and he's not done yet. His goal is to lose 70 pounds. Along the way he has lowered his cholesterol, reduced his blood pressure, and made friends everywhere he goes.



Seth's achievements are impressive in their own right, but he has also had an impact on those who know him. In Lorraine's eyes, "Seth is exceptional - like the greatest human being I know."

Each of the members of his Support Service team have contributed to Seth's victories by listening to his desires, believing in the possibility of success, encouraging him to achieve his goals, working collaboratively with one another and applauding his successes.

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And to think that this story all began with Lorraine and Amy listening and acting, with people at Weight Watchers opening their arms and hearts, with Wakita helping him find work, with Jim supporting Seth in the group home, with the people at Walgreen's accepting him as a colleague, and with Seth losing those first 2.4 pounds.

All we can say is...

WOW!

Congratulations to Seth, Lorraine, Amy, Jim, and Wakita. This is what good support service work looks like! ♦

Tangible Benefits of Receiving the WOW! Award

- \$25 gift card to the winning RRA Consumer.
- 20 CARE points to each Support Service Team member who contributed to this success - enough for a day off if that's the choice of the staff person.
- A specially designed WOW! Pin for each recipient.
- Feature stories, pictures on display, featured articles in the Choices newsletter and on RRA's new web site.

A NEW AWARD PROGRAM FOR RRA CONSUMERS AND THE STAFF WHO SUPPORT THEM

The **WOW!** Award for support services that make you just want to say...

WOW!

This award is given quarterly to an individual served by RRA who has achieved important life goals and to the members of the Support Service team who have helped him or her achieve these goals.

WOW! stands for **Wonderful Outcome Winners.**

Those chosen are winners in every sense of the word. First of all, the persons served who win are winners because they have dedicated themselves to achieving important goals that make a real difference in their lives.

Each of the members of the Support Service team serving the consumer chosen for the WOW! Award has contributed to this achievement by:

- Listening to the consumer's desires
- Believing in the possibilities of success
- Encouraging him or her to achieve the goals set.
- Working collaboratively with one another.
- Involving others in the community in providing natural supports to the consumer in the achievement of these goals.
- Applauding the consumer's successes each step along the way.

It's a collaborative team effort based on relationships that promote the growth and development of the consumers, that require the creative and relentless pursuit of goals that matter to the consumers, that involve the consumers as active and valued members of the broader community, and that provide committed and consistent support and assistance as needed.

It's the kind of support we want for every person served by RRA that is truly worthy of praise!

Be on the lookout for WOW! Achievements! Anyone can nominate a consumer and his or her Support Service team members for a WOW! Award. As you see and hear about great services that encompass the goals shared above, submit a nomination form, which will be available at either the North or South Headquarters, so that it can be reviewed by the Award Committee. Follow-up interviews with those nominated will be an important part of this process. ♦



2006 GALA PREMIER SPONSOR COMPANY PROFILES

RRA Is Grateful for the Partnership and Help of These Premier Gala Sponsors

PREMIER SPONSORS



AirTran Airways, a Fortune 1000 company and one of America's largest low-fare airlines with 7,000 friendly, professional Crew Members, operates over 600 daily flights to 50 destinations.

The airline's hub is at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, where it is the second largest carrier. AirTran Airways recently added the fuel-efficient Boeing 737-700 aircraft to create America's youngest all-Boeing fleet. The airline is also the first carrier to install XM Satellite Radio on a commercial aircraft and the only airline with Business Class and XM Satellite Radio on every flight.

For reservations or more information, visit airtran.com (America Online Keyword: AirTran). ♦



A successful renovation project depends as much on the ability to coordinate various disciplines as it does on competence of each individual. With our team member's solid construction and real estate management experience, we know what makes a great apartment community, and we know what is expected from owners, managers, and residents. Every project is undertaken with one simple goal in mind: creating real, long-term asset value for our clients.

American Painting & Renovations, Inc. offers a wide variety of renovation services to the multifamily industry, specializing in exterior painting, roofing and guttering, vinyl siding, cementitious siding, stucco repair, carpentry, concrete, etc. We also provide complete apartment to condo conversions, including both interior and exterior renovations. Our goal is to provide our customers with prompt, reliable, cost-effective service.

With over 15 years of nationwide service, quality workmanship, and competitive pricing, we have earned recognition within our industry that is confirmed by a growing list of satisfied customers. ♦



We deliver success.

At BlueLinx, delivering success is what our business is all about. As the leading building products distribution company in the industry, we provide the building blocks for residential and commercial construction, remodeling and repair, manufacturing, manufactured and modular housing, and homeowner projects.

Look to BlueLinx for quality products, reliable distribution, knowledgeable people and innovative ideas. BlueLinx has the organization and systems to help our customers accomplish their goals, and we invite you to discover how much we can deliver.

BlueLinx delivers building products & solutions. At BlueLinx, we know that delivering solutions is much more than moving products from a manufacturer to a customer. It's about linking the people, products and markets that are fundamental to success.

Build on our strength. Creating those connections is the strength of BlueLinx Corporation. BlueLinx has the people and systems well known in the building products business for quality building products, reliable distribution and inventive solutions. "Blue" reflects our familiar blue trucks, while "Linx" describes what we do, as we expertly manage the flow of products and information through the supply chain.

Reliable distribution. As the largest building products distributor in the industry, BlueLinx is positioned to deliver on our promise. Headquartered in Atlanta, with over 3,300 employees, BlueLinx operates in all of the major metropolitan areas of the United States through our network of 63 warehouses and many third-party operated warehouses.

Over 900 trucks deliver to more than 11,700 customers, including building material dealers, industrial manufacturers, modular and manufactured housing producers and home improvement retailers. We also offer a growing selection of distribution services that use our transportation assets and facilities. A sophisticated logistics network ensures that our customers can count on us for reliable, efficient deliveries.

Quality products. BlueLinx offers more than 10,000 products from over 750 supplier companies, with strategic vendor relationships with many well-known building products manufacturers. Our procurement specialists seek out products from around the world to present our customers with a wide selection and value. The products we distribute are known and used in residential and commercial construction, manufacturing, manufactured housing, repair and remodeling, and home improvement do-it-yourself projects.

Targeted solutions. Drawing from decades of experience in the building products industry, our professional team works closely with each of our customers to provide tailored solutions. With a unique combination of market coverage, the strengths of a local and national sales force, the buying power of centralized procurement, and the efficiencies of centralized accounting and systems technologies, BlueLinx is able to maximize value for its customers and vendors. ♦

PLATINUM SPONSORS

The 680 Group at Smith Barney



The Roswell Rotary Club

Service Above Self

WADDELL

SMITH

Waddell, Smith, Magoon and Freeman, LLC

Certified Public Accountants

Galen & Anna Kilburn

All of us at RRA are deeply grateful for the love and support shown by these and all other sponsors for those we are privileged to serve at RRA. Thank you so very much!



Champagne Tastes & Champagne Lite Bargains

Three great stores in one location!

We are pleased to announce two new additions to our current store's lower level -- "Champagne Lite," featuring consignment items and Champagne Bargains, featuring gently used donated items.

Furniture • Home Décor • Lighting • Patio • Rugs • Gourmet Gifts • Jewelry • Accessories • Consignment Merchandise • Bargains
Mon. - Sat. 10:00 am - 6:00 pm • Sun. 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm



Champagne Tastes, a RRA Foundation Store, Inc., is now accepting consignment items as well as "gently used" donations. . .

- Men's - Women's - Children's Apparel
- Furniture - Lamps - Rugs - Accessories
- Working televisions - stereos - radios - clocks
- Exercise equipment
- Kitchen Implements - Cookbooks - Dinnerware
- Lawn & Garden Tools
- Automobiles (will be handled through RRA's web site)

Please, only donate cleaned clothes and items that are in working condition. A receipt will be provided for your IRS deductions.

All profits from Champagne Tastes support Resources & Residential Alternatives, Inc.

Directions: Take GA 400 north to Holcomb Bridge Road (Exit 7A - Norcross). Turn right (east) and go to the second stoplight. Then turn left (north) at Old Alabama Rd. Just beyond the Wachovia Bank you will see Holcomb Bridge Crossing Center, where Champagne Tastes is located, in the former Georgetown Interiors location.

1575 Old Alabama Rd. • Roswell, GA 30076 • 770.641.6373, Ext. 0
Bring this ad with you and receive a 10% off on your purchases of new merchandise (excluding sale, consigned, or used items) prior to 9/30/06.

ANGELS WALK AMONG US!

By Nancy Blankenship, Director of Retail Stores

Linda Crenshaw, who originally discovered Champagne Tastes as a customer, has become a SPECIAL ANGEL to the store and those we serve through RRA. A Coldwell Banker Realtor, Linda was instrumental in arranging a special shopping event at the store for the 70 professional associates in her Alpharetta office. Following that, she petitioned to have the store recognized as a non-profit organization eligible to participate in a corporate Coldwell Banker program that collects monies donated from agent's commissions that is then distributed as monetary donations to those eligible groups.



On June 5, 2006 Linda, Bill Fogarty, (CARE Chairman) and Barbara Brown, Broker of the Coldwell Banker office, presented a \$1,000 check to Champagne Tastes! The money will be earmarked for store advertising expenses to help provide more exposure to the public and create a larger customer base. Reducing store expenses like this will allow the store to provide more funding to RRA and those served.

Our heartfelt thanks to Linda and all of the Coldwell Banker professionals who made this possible! This dynamic lady has also made personal monetary contributions, donated clothing items, and volunteered at the store. Before she left after the check presentation, Linda was already discussing another event in July for her associate agents! Any wonder why we call her a SPECIAL ANGEL? ♦



HERE'S A VERY IMPORTANT WAY YOU CAN HELP THOSE WE SERVE IN DAY SERVICES AT RRA!

By Maria Lee, Director of Support Services - Vocational



Day Services at both of RRA's headquarters at North Fulton and at South Fulton are in need of folding or accordion walls to help separate activities and people served so they can better focus on their work or activities throughout the day.

Why do we need walls, especially as we are planning on spending more and more time doing everyday activities in the community, increasing and building our community connections? There are many reasons and here are some:

Even if the building feels like more of a train depot where people arrive and depart to various places on some days, having at least one wall dividing the big area will decrease confusion and noise during this time.

Then, of course there will be times when all 30 are in the building along with 6 or 7 support associates. Imagine a wide open space with people of greatly varying needs sharing this space. Even though there are groups, a lot of distraction is created by always hearing everyone else's conversation and sounds as they go about different tasks.

Naturally, since we support people and the choices they make, there are many times that more than one activity is going on in the Day Services area at North and South at the same time. Being able to separate people for different tasks or programming would be very helpful.

There are those who have a low tolerance for noise in the same room with people who enjoy lots of noise. Now, imagine if you were someone who could not stand certain noises, but had to on a daily basis share space with someone that gets loud in various ways. I think by the end of the day, you may feel a bit edgy.

Also, what if you daily had to share space with someone that you just don't really get along with? Having a wall between you may be a great stress reducer making for a much calmer day.

So regardless of our growing community connections, there will be rainy days or days that perhaps a lot of folks just don't want to go anywhere. There will be mornings and afternoons with many people in the buildings at the same time, so having at least 1 wall at each location (North and South Fulton Day Services area) would be a true blessing. **Our preference would be to have folding walls which could be put in place at some times and retracted at others** when group activities are planned. The flexibility this would allow would be most helpful!

If you would like to help with a special contribution for this cause, you can call DeAnn Rauth at 678.468.9980 or mail your designated contribution made payable to RRA Foundation to RRA at 1200 Old Ellis Road, Roswell, GA 30076. ♦



- | | |
|---|---|
| January Kathy S. LaKiysha F. Nancy S. Santiel E. Derrick P. Sharon S. Richard F. Junifer L. | July Jodey M. Beverly W. Charlie H. Charles L. Katherine P. Chris S. Paula A. Giovanni D. Alfred C. |
| February Wilbert B. Charles S. John C. David L. Christel H. Catherine S. Monteia L. | August Jan P. Evan F. Courtney C. Marianne K. Kenny W. Aisha S. |
| March Larry K. Sara D. Joseph P. Charlene B. Lyle E. Debbie B. Michael E. Ernesto W. Stuart U. Bill L. Mark W. Steven I. | September Melissa C. Christine E. Bruce R. Abbie B. Anthony H. RoseBarry T. Robert B. Daryl O. Garrett A. Carolee C. |
| April Doran M. Matthew M. Marshall P. Lowell H. Ashley S. Trent S. Henry W. | October Denny C. Gwen K. Charlie R. Jackie B. Rodney G. Eddie B. Mark B. Ira H. Willis B. Gregory B. Stephen C. Ira W. |
| May Regina H. Rena F. Michelle L. Connie S. Dwayne A. Robert G. Rebecca W. Carl W. | November Billy H. Chris D. Amy P. Rickie G. Greg C. Gina W. John L. |
| June Lisa E. Joseph P. John D. Kenneth L. Danale F. Chuck L. | December Phyllis C. John B. Brian A. L'Henry A. Cathy C. Christina K. Robert A. Bobby N. Seth B. Denny M. Jack D. Scott C. |



PERSONAL SUPPORT SERVICES UPDATE

By Sheryl Sterling,
Director of Quality
Improvement and
Staff Development

RRA is now licensed to provide the new Personal Support Services from its South Fulton office.

The long anticipated moving day came in April for Melissa Crawley, Christel Hayes, John Brady and Rickie Gary. And what is the favorite attraction for the new residents of Princeton Lake Apartments? The swimming pool of course!

Melissa has already invited a friend over to enjoy the pool with her. She is proud of her new home and welcomes the responsibility that comes with it. Both she and John mentioned paying their own bills when asked what makes them feel good about being more independent.

John also enjoys using the computers at the Clubhouse to check on his bank account or look for interesting activities.



Above:
Melissa and Christel relaxing on their patio (left to right Melissa Crawley, Christel Hayes)

Below:
John and Rickie getting ready for dinner (left to right John Brady, Rickie Gary)



Melissa and Christel are very happy to be sharing an apartment. Christel says they are "treating each other almost like sisters". Melissa does the cooking and Christel is in charge of the clean up afterwards. At the men's apartment Rickie likes the peace and quiet. He and John both enjoy cooking and take turns making meals their mothers would be proud to serve.

RRA would like to recognize and say thank you to the people who work to support Rickie, John, Christel and Melissa in their new homes. They are LaTaunya Jarrette, Stephen Pullie, Monica Tory, Marion Hillman, Regina Whitsett, Jean Kennedy, Bennie Gay, Alexis Johnson and Shayaa Muhammed.

And a very special thanks to Seth Quick for all the hard work and long hours he has put in. His total commitment to this project laid the foundation for this successful transition and helped dreams come true for those we serve!

RRA expects to be licensed to provide Personal Support Services in North Fulton at the end of August. ♦

INVITE ELVIS TO YOUR NEXT PARTY!

John Brady, who is served by RRA is a fantastic Elvis Impersonator. He is available to do parties, and one of his dreams is to be a paid performer. He is well worthy of attaining this goal too. Come and hear him at the *Celebration of the RRA Community* on August 26th and check him out! ♦



Elvis is in the building!

RRA IS CELEBRATING DEANN RAUTH'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

By Richard Colyer,
Executive Director

On July 26th, DeAnn Rauth will be celebrating her 20th Anniversary of serving RRA and caring for the individuals we are privileged to serve at RRA. She began as a weekend support staff in one of the homes, then served in the Human Resources Department, later assisted Tex Crossin when he was Director of Development, and finally grew into her perfect niche as Director of Development. She began her career here at the age of seven, she says!

In this role, she has helped dreams come true for those we serve along with helping countless needs be met time and time again. She serves RRA with unparalleled passion, zeal, and dedication, which stems from her love for the individuals served by RRA. You can't be around her long before you catch her enthusiasm for those we serve or hear one of her countless stories!

One of my favorite stories of DeAnn's happened years ago when she was working on the support staff at one of the homes. She was taking Charles, one of those RRA serves to get his flu shot. On the way, while driving her own small red sports car, she was stopped by one of Roswell's finest and received a speeding ticket. As they were arriving back at RRA, DeAnn said to Charles, "When we get back to the office, let's not say anything about this, okay?" Charles responded, "Won't say a word!" Just as they walked into the lobby, Charles started spinning his arms and hands over his head and making the noise of a police siren. Then he added smugly, "But I'm not saying anything!"

DeAnn says, "Working at RRA and getting to know and love the consumers has made me the person I am today. My character has been formed by observing their courage and zest for living."

When she and her husband, Greg, were married, the consumers were a big part of that event and helped make it special for DeAnn. They have two children: one daughter, Peyton, and one son, Davis. Despite the fact that Greg's work took them to Chattanooga almost two years ago, DeAnn has seamlessly continued her role in development at RRA via cellular phone, e-mail, and countless trips back to Atlanta and Roswell.

Thanks for twenty great years, DeAnn! We couldn't and wouldn't want to do it without you! ♦



Greg and DeAnn Rauth

SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES BEING TAUGHT AT RRA!

By Maria Lee, Director of Support Services

Sign language classes are now up and running at both our South and North Fulton locations. In South Fulton, the class is taught by Thomas Holden, and in North Fulton John Williams is the teacher. Not only is this fun for those we support that communicate with signs, but it's also helpful for other associates to sit in and learn as well. This increases participation and communication all the way around.

For example, a young man in South Fulton, L'Henry Alexander, had basically stopped using his sign language skills while in the Day Services building. Although staff recognized and could use the basic signs such as bathroom and thank you, it really wasn't enough use in it for him to be motivated. Now, as his relationship with Thomas has grown and he is recognizing that he is "listened" to more, he is starting to communicate more inside the building as well. It is a true joy to see Thomas and L'Henry taking a walk while signing back and forth to one another.

Further, observing John communicating with the individuals in North Fulton who use sign language as their main way to communicate is absolutely amazing. With no sounds uttered, they even joke around from time to time with a true understanding of one another. Also, you notice a great sense of trust. The relationships that this has helped build between John and these particular individuals is something that hopefully soon others working at RRA will experience as well, as their knowledge of sign language increases.

So a big big thank you to both Thomas and John for teaching these classes! ♦

2006 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

By Matthew McWhorter

When my parents and I arrived at my brother's house, my brother and his family were not there. They were at the park so we waited until they got back home.

This was my first time seeing my new niece, Emma, and I was happy to see her. Emma was asleep in her car seat when they got home. The first thing I did was hold her in my arms, and while she was in my arms, she looked up at me.

We walked to my brother's office and my mom showed me a pink ribbon on a sign that symbolized the birth of my niece. On the way back, we stopped at the store to get things to make tacos for dinner. While we were sitting down for dinner, we talked about how good the tacos were.

On Sunday morning, my mom, brother, his wife Maggie and I all went for a walk. As we were walking, we heard church bells ringing.



Matthew and Nancy McWhorter

We walked back to the house to get ready to pack the car to go back to Georgia. It was hard saying good-bye to my brother and sister-in-law, so when we returned to Georgia, we called them to let them know we made it back to Georgia.

When we got to my parents' house, we unpacked the car and had some lunch before I went back to Grimes Place and had dinner. ♦



BLUELINX CORPORATION HAS OPENED DOORS FOR WORK OPPORTUNITIES TO THOSE SERVED BY RRA

By Maria Lee, Director of Support Services

BlueLinx Corporation has offered RRA a great work opportunity for those we serve. Through quite a bit of maneuvering on their end, they have hired us to be day porters Monday through Friday for six hours per day. We have a crew of three individuals and one support associate, split between RRA's north and south Fulton sites serving at BlueLinx.

It is difficult to describe in words how much this has meant to several people supported by RRA. This job has brought out the best in so many people even though this is not an easy job. Each person has to keep moving through the 250,000 square foot building to make sure everything gets done such as stocking and ensuring the bathrooms look nice, clean break areas, empty garbage in the parking decks, etc. It has built stamina for many who initially where quite worn out when they came back from work. But in spite of being so tired at the end of the day, they kept saying they wanted to go back.



One of the gentlemen that goes there, Jodey, stated that "they love us, and we love them!"

He is someone who has not worked in quite some time and has not shown the motivation to work somewhere independently. He has stated over and over again that he would prefer to work as part of a group. With BlueLinx, this became a reality, and Jodey is truly a new man. Allen is someone too that has all the capabilities in the world, but has been quite unsure of himself. This has given him new found confidence in himself. Alfred just joined the crew from north and has done a tremendous job so far. Bill and Lisa are doing a great job as well. And then there is Kenny L, who is the "go-to guy", just as he was in South Fulton before starting this job. He is always there when needed, and takes care of whatever needs to be done.



So with this said, THANK YOU BLUELINX, for working with us and helping important goals for those we serve to be achieved. There were many details to work out, but thanks to Carroll Rollins and Gary Cumming's (who serves on RRA's Board of Directors) strong desire to make this a successful "win-win" opportunity for both organizations, we have come a long way! ♦



AZALEA DRIVE

- Living room furniture

BARRINGTON LANDING

- Latch hook kits
- Paper & paints
- Stone Mountain parking pass
- New wallpaper for kitchen
- Window treatments for living room
- Credenza or console table w/storage
- TV stand for den
- Treadmill mat
- Refrigerator
- Locking file cabinet

BENJAMIN E. MAYS

- DVD player
- Kitchen curtains

BRANCHWOOD

- DVD player
- Futon mattress
- New bedroom furniture for Nancy Swint

COLD CREEK

- New van for transporting consumers

COLONY DRIVE

- Tickets to Braves/Hawks games
- Entertainment center
- Full-size mattress sets for Bobby and Alfred
- Large living room rug
- Treadmill

CRABAPPLE

- Flooring and cabinet restoration
- Carpet shampoo machine
- New or gently used van
- Rocking chairs/glider for front porch
- Television
- Linens
- Gas grill to replace their old one

DENNA DRIVE

- Curtains and drapes from JC Penney's for dining room
- Living room furniture
- Dining room furniture
- King or queen size mattress sets
- 4-Drawer locking, filing cabinets (4)

DIXIE LAKE

- Roll-a-Ramp for wheelchairs
- Screen door
- Sofa, loveseat and coffee table
- Futon mattress for sleep over Support Staff
- DVD player

EAST HEMBREE

- New flooring for kitchen and hallway
- Resurface, refinish, or replace kitchen cabinets and counter tops
- Window treatments for dining room

HOLCOMB BRIDGE

- Marching band-type drum for Scott
- Three rocking chairs for front porch
- Window treatment for the kitchen
- Screen door for kitchen entrance
- Eat-in kitchen table w/chairs for 6
- New carpet for hallways, bedrooms & stairs

LEGACY 718

- Credenza or console table w/storage

LOWER DIXIE LAKE

- Deck swing or glider
- Futon mattress for sleep over Support Staff
- Full size mattress set
- New den furniture

LYNNE CIRCLE

- Puzzles
- Printer
- White towels and wash cloths
- Living room furniture
- 2-Drawer file cabinet

PINE GROVE

- Stone Mountain parking pass

TOLLWOOD

- Refinish kitchen cabinets
- Replace kitchen flooring

SEVERAL HOMES

- Front loading washers and dryers for homes serving consumers in wheel chairs

ALL HOMES

- Tickets to sporting events, Stone Mtn. Park, Six Flags, Lake Lanier Islands, etc.
- Pots, pans, silverware and towels

DAY SERVICES NORTH

- Cars and smaller vans for Day Services transportation
- Side table

DAY SERVICES SOUTH

- Cars and smaller vans for Day Services transportation
- One additional gas grill

MISCELLANEOUS NEEDS

- PowerPoint Projector and overhead projector for Supported Employment Training and other Training Classes
- Double mattress and boxsprings for Rickie Gary
- Lounge chairs
- Boom box

If you would like to help any of these wishes come true by donating an item or money to purchase one, contact Shirley Pahl at 770-664-4347, ext. 109 or DeAnn Rauth at 678.468.9980.

You can also send your check made payable to **RRA Foundation**. Please indicate what the gift is for and mail to: RRA, 1200 Old Ellis Road, Roswell, GA 30076. **Thank you!** ♦



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

- Marcia L. Helton** – Laptop Computer for use in training classes
- Rob & Anne Shilt** – Television
- Doug Higgins** – Refrigerator
- Pat Willingham** – Bedding
- Ken Davis** – Dishwasher, Kitchen Sink, Phone
- Alan Carte** – State Sprinkler Company - \$400 IN Kind off Sprinkler System Inspection
- Delores & Roy Brooks** – Grill
- Bob & Marie Palmieri** – Magazines, Furniture, Christmas Tree, Brass & Glass Tables, Lawn Equipment, and Various other Miscellaneous Items
- Linda Crenshaw** – 3 London Fog Men's Outer Wear Coats
- Roger Santi** – Refrigerator and a dishwasher
- Delores McCabe & ALTUS Healthcare & Hospice, Inc.** – Flowers for Cold Creek and East Hembree
- Katie & Barry Puckett** – 2 pieces of exercise equipment
- Jackie Fishman** – 50" Television
- Bill & Vickie Gordon** – Television, kitchen table & chairs, hutch, and entertainment center
- Joanne** – Patio furniture
- Faye Cole** – Men and Women's Clothes
- Sam & Kay Briggs** – TV
- Bob Schambach** – Sherwin Williams – 17 gallons of paint for north Great Day Of Service and paint for south
- Juan Crosby** – Walgreens – 18 Boxes of candy
- Linda Sumantel** – Television, VCR, washer & dryer.
- Delores Hubbard-Brooks** - Grill for Day Services South
- Ginny & Jack Riley** - Outdoor furniture for Holcomb Bridge

LOOK AT ME

Written by the ladies of Denna Drive Group Home

Look at me. I'm a reflection of God's love.

All the goodness, love and hope are in my veins.

Look at me. Society says I'm different, but God says I'm special.

Look at me. My legs don't quite work right. My speech is a little blurred. I can't take care of all my personal needs.

Look at me. Instead of making fun of me try to help me. Try actually being me.

Look at me because I am love.



Jackie Brantley, Becky Williams, and Debbie Bentley are three of the four ladies served at Denna Drive. Not pictured is Sharon Swift.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS

The National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) recently held their annual GWEN Convention in Atlanta. This was a two-day conference that ended with an Awards GALA and auction.

RRA was chosen as their charity to receive a portion of their auction proceeds. RRA was very involved in the evening festivities. Several of the people we support were invited and many of the gentlemen escorted the award winners at the event. The highlight of the event we feel was of course Melissa sharing some of her stories about her goals and Marshall's painting selling for \$1,000!



Rickie Gary escorting one of the Award Winners



RRA Board Member, Art Eckman and Marshall Port with his wonderful painting

A big thank you to Kimball Williams and Art Eckman for helping to make this happen and to NAWBO for choosing RRA as their charity to support this year. ♦



Melissa Crawley with her escort, Stephen Court at the event



INTRODUCING LILLIAN GIBSON

Lillian Gibson is RRA's South Fulton Office's new Director of Support Services-Residential. Lillian comes to RRA from Catholic Charities in Long Island, NY, where she served as their Director of Residential Support Services. Having spent much of her career in the nonprofit sector working with developmentally disabled/mentally retarded children and adults, Lillian told us, "I love working with the clients because I sincerely enjoy helping them meet their goals and fulfill their desires." In addition to her nonprofit work, Lillian was also a New York City police officer.



Lillian Gibson

Lillian shared with us three things that she'd like to accomplish while at RRA. "First, I'm completely dedicated to giving the best quality care for those served. Second, I want to encourage staff to put their best foot forward in their efforts to carry out the agency's mission. Third, I desire to become a valuable team member and help make the ongoing changes planned at RRA as smooth and seamless as possible, all while ensuring that these changes will be to the benefit of the clients served and to the community," Lillian explained.

Born in the Bahamas, Lillian had lived in Long Island all her life until moving to Atlanta this March with her husband, Edgar Gibson. They have a 10-year-old daughter, Nyomi, who's taking karate lessons, and a 20-year-old son, Pierre, who's currently serving in the Navy. In her spare time, Lillian keeps fit through kickboxing and aerobics. She also likes reading works by Iyanla Vanzant and other motivational authors. ♦

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO...

- **Stuart Utterback** and his family on the passing of his mother, **Mrs. Bernice Utterback**.
- **Phillip and Steven Inman** and their father, **Ray Inman**, on the death of their mother and wife, **Mrs. Mary Inman**.
- **Seth Quick** and his family on the passing of Seth's father.
- **Lynne and John Buchanan** and their family on the death of Lynne's father.

RECENT STAFF PROMOTIONS & ADDITIONS

- **Sheryl Sterling**, who has been with RRA for almost eighteen years, has been promoted to the position of Director of Quality Improvement and Staff Development.
- **Jessy Ebert** is new to our team and serving RRA in the role of Quality Improvement Associate.
- **Torrie Narcisse** and **Lorraine Aull** were recently promoted and added to the group of new Support Managers II, listed in Joyce Edward's article in the last issue of *Choices*.
- **Tunji Adesesan** will be the Support Manager for Day Services in North Fulton.
- **Denetta Parker** will be the Support Manager for the Branchwood Group Home in South Fulton.
- **Lillian Gibson** has been named as Director of Support Services-Residential in South Fulton (*Please see article above introducing her.*)



THE FIFTH ANNUAL FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON IS SET FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2006 AT THE ATLANTA ATHLETIC CLUB!

The 5th Annual Trends & Traditions Fashion Show will be held Friday, September 8th at the Atlanta Athletic Club in Duluth, with SteinMart hosting the fashions. Tickets for this event are \$45 in advance and \$55 at the door. Included is a wonderful lunch of Atlanta Athletic Club Mixed Green Salad, Chicken Milanaise over Angel Hair Pasta, Green Beans Almondine and Chocolate Mousse with Fresh Berries (vegetarian meal will be provided with prior request).

Cindy Ethridge at SteinMart did a wonderful job the last two years hosting our event. She brought us valuable information and gave the shows the extra excitement they deserve and our guests enjoy. She already is planning a great show for us this year as well!

The 2006 Fashion Show Special Guest Models will be Nicole Jones, the lovely wife of Atlanta Braves' Andruw Jones, and Russ Spencer, the Anchor of Fox 5 News Atlanta. They will be joined by RRA consumers and some of our wonderful local talent from previous years.



The 2006 Fashion Show Committee Members include:

- Lynne Buchanan
- Nell Calhoun
- Pat Crossin
- Peggy Farris
- Kitty Hoepfer
- Woody Markert
- Sherri Morgan
- Pat Orem
- Connie Pence
- Ginny Riley
- Dolores Rodden
- Carolyn Schloemer
- Lorraine Segraves
- Angie Smith
- Cindy Theus
- Patricia Whidby
- And RRA staff members

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE!

Golden Organza Sponsor \$1,000

Reserved Table for Ten, Full-Page Ad in the Event Program, Listing on Sponsor Board

Silver Lace Sponsor \$800

Reserved Table for Eight, Half-Page Ad in the Event Program, Listing on Sponsor Board

White Linen Sponsor \$200

Quarter-Page Ad in the Event Program, Listing on Sponsor Board

For information, please call DeAnn Rauth at 678.468.9980 or e-mail her at drauth@rraga.org or John Lawler at 770.664.4347, Ext. 102 or e-mail him at jlawler@rraga.org.

For Directions to the Atlanta Athletic Club, for more information, or to register or arrange to sponsor this event on RRA's secure web site, just go to www.rraga.org and click on the Fashion Show link in the upper right hand corner. ♦

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC IS SET FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2006 AT THE CROOKED CREEK GOLF CLUB

You are cordially invited to the Thirteenth Annual RRA Golf Classic on Tuesday, October 10, 2006 at the Crooked Creek Golf Club in Alpharetta, Georgia. This great event will be a benefit for Resources & Residential Alternatives and help with the thousands of dollars in repairs needed on RRA's twenty-three group homes and two work centers.

Agenda

9:00 - 10:30 am Registration, Driving Range, and Putting Green. Box Lunch Provided
11:00 am Shotgun Start
Awards Reception with Raffle Prizes, Verbal Auction, and Prime Rib Dinner following the day of Golf

Golf Committee Members

- Ira Cavallo
- Alfred Cole (RRA Consumer)
- Gary Cummings
- Tom Davis
- Carl Farris
- Steve Hyde
- Galen Kilburn, Chairperson
- Eric Leichty
- Bill Morie
- Roger Santi
- Wayne Scruggs
- John Shevlin
- R. C. Thielemann
- Trey Tompkins
- Jeff Wilder
- Rev. John Wolfe
- And RRA Staff



SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE!

Title Sponsor \$25,000 - Company Name & Logo on Printed Materials, 16 player packages, Company representative to speak at Awards Banquet, Listing in Event Promotional Brochure, Full-page back cover ad in Golf Program, Banner displayed at Clubhouse and Awards Banquet, 12 Tickets to RRA's 19th Annual Gala, Sat. March 3, 2007, Full-page ad in RRA's Gala Program, Company Profile in RRA's Choices Newsletter

Premier Sponsor \$15,000 - 12 player packages, Tee or Green Sign, Listing in Event Promotional Brochure, Full-page Ad in Golf Program, Banner at Clubhouse, 12 Tickets to RRA's 19th Annual Gala, Sat. March 3, 2007, Full-page ad in RRA's Gala Program, Company Profile in RRA's Choices Newsletter

Eagle Sponsor \$3,000 - 8 player packages, Tee or Green Sign, Listing in Event Promotional Brochure, Full-page Ad in Golf Program, Banner at Clubhouse, Company Profile in RRA's Choices Newsletter

Birdie Sponsor \$2,000 - 4 Player Packages, Tee or Green Sign, Listing in Event Promotional Brochure, and Half-page Ad in Golf Program

Par Sponsor \$1,200 - 4 Player Packages, Tee or Green Sign, Listing in Event Promotional Brochure, Quarter-page Ad in Golf Program

Beverage Cart Sponsor \$500 - Sign on Beverage Cart, Company Representative on Beverage Cart, Recognition in Golf Program

Tee/Green Sign - \$275 Sign on available Tee or Green, Recognition in the Golf Program

Player's Package \$225 - 1 Participant, Lunch, Green Fees, Shared Cart, Beverages, Prizes, Prime Rib Dinner at Awards Reception

For information, please call DeAnn Rauth at 678.468.9980 or e-mail her at drauth@rraga.org or John Lawler at 770.664.4347, Ext. 102 or e-mail him at jlawler@rraga.org.

For Directions to the Crooked Creek Golf Club, for more information, or to register or arrange to sponsor this event on RRA's secure web site, just go to www.rraga.org and click on the Golf Classic link in the upper right hand corner. ♦



2006 SERVICE PROJECTS TO HELP RRA!

Thank You From All of Us at RRA for Your Volunteer Efforts This Year



On March 25th, volunteers from Cumming UMC painted the handicapped bathroom, outside shutters, and planted flowers at East Hembree.



On April 22nd, volunteers from Alpharetta UMC painted the living room and den at Cold Creek.



On March 25th, volunteers from Peachtree UMC pressure washed the outside of Lynne Circle and cleaned all inside windows as well.



On April 22nd, volunteers from Alpharetta UMC did several projects at Lynne Circle.



On March 18th, volunteers from Roswell UMC painted the common living areas at Crabapple.



On March 18th, volunteers from Northbrook UMC did several outside projects at Crabapple.



Thank you for caring and serving those supported by RRA!

On March 18th, volunteers from Northbrook UMC did several Great Day of Service projects at Cold Creek.



GIRL SCOUTS SERVE THE LADIES AT BARRINGTON LANDING!



RIVER OF LIFE YOUTH GROUP GIVES BACK TO COMMUNITY

On Saturday, April 8, 2006, the River of Life Youth Group from Cumming United Methodist Church painted the Day Services Facility at Resources and Residential Alternatives, Inc. Twenty youth, with Coordinators Elisabeth and Slade Westbrook, gave up a Saturday to paint for people with developmental disabilities. During the day of painting the group was shown a video about RRA to help them better understand the organization they were serving. ♦

