north coast
Community Homes

Home Page

Developing and managing community housing for people with disabilities

Fall 2011: Volume 15, Issue II

John L. Martin
Director, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

"Within the first few months of Joel Martin's life, his parents sensed something was wrong. Joel couldn't hold up his head at times, at others, it would be completely rigid.

Since they worked with the disabled, John and Sue Martin knew all the things that could be wrong with their second-born child. When he was 9 months old, they got the news they feared: Joel had cerebral palsy, a seizure disorder, and mental retardation." (*The Columbus Dispatch*, January 18, 2007)

John Martin and his son, Joel

John Martin's personal experience as a parent, as the former Executive Director of Sunshine, Inc. of Northwest Ohio, a non-profit organization serving people with developmental disabilities, and as the Executive Director of MRDD Solutions, a for-profit subsidiary of Sunshine Inc. that provides software to more than 100 agencies in 18 states, prompted Governor Ted Strickland to appoint him as the Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities effective January 15, 2007. The Department has since been renamed The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) in 2009, following the efforts of many of Ohio's advocates.

One of the most significant areas that John manages at the DODD is the development and management of the annual budget. He has supervised the following budget reductions since he took office in line with requests from the governors to reduce spending due to poor economic conditions in the state.

2008	1.24% reduction in spending
2009	13.39% reduction
2010	9% reduction
2011	8% reduction

Budget reductions are not an easy task. John analyzed possible budget cuts in the support of developmental centers, but found that they care for individuals with the highest need in the state. He looked at reducing support of county boards of developmental disabilities, but found that they provide vocational and day programming to thousands of individuals in each of their communities and that by law these boards must continue to serve the same number of people. He also looked at reducing the support of group homes, but found that they are already working under very limited budgets that are based on 2002 costs. Many residential providers have had a pay freeze in effect for their staffs prior to the financial meltdown of 2008.

He has managed the budgeting process with careful consideration, and has been able to bring DODD through with much smaller cuts than other departments. In his first four years as Director, he has dealt with more budget cuts than any other director in the 50 years this department has been in operation and he has been able to retain and grow the support and respect of all participating parties, including developmental centers, county providers, residential providers and central office staff.

You will have the opportunity to meet John Martin in person at North Coast Community Homes' Annual Meeting on December 6, 2011 at Windows On The River in Cleveland when John will be our keynote speaker.

Regarding Joel, John states, "We have definitely been blessed by him. We've been through tough times like all parents, but we've learned a lot from that kid."

From the President's Desk...

Stephen McPeake
President & CEO

"Playing The Hand That Is Dealt"

In my 27 years as President & CEO of North Coast Community Homes, I have had the priviledge of meeting and working with many people who live with disabilities. I continue to be humbled and inspired.

The lead article in the Spring 2010 HomePage Newsletter told the story of Jim May and his family. Jim, who has cared for his daughter with Down syndrome and Type I diabetes and his wife with Parkinson's disease, said that his father once told him, "Everyone gets a deck of cards to play with. How you play your hand is up to you." I have never met a more upbeat, positive and caring individual.

Another very special person who I had the pleasure of working with was Ann Nickman "Candy" Jacobson. Candy was an active member of the North Coast Community Homes Board of Trustees for 10 years. She was also a leader in many other community organizations, including Gross Schecter Day School, Ohio Buckeye Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute, Mellen Center for Multiple Sclerosis, Goodwill and Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

This is my favorite photograph of Ann Nickman Jacobson, second from the right. She was visiting with tenants of North Coast Community Homes. Her assistant, Cindy Edmonds, is in the front.

During her early professional career she lived in New York City and was the Director of Personnel for Bloomingdale's. Mid-life she acquired primary progressive multiple sclerosis.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an autoimmune disease that affects the brain and spinal cord (central nervous system). MS is caused by damage to the myelin sheath, the protective coating that surrounds nerve cells. When this nerve covering is damaged, nerve impulses are slowed down or stopped. The type of MS Ann lived with is characterized by steadily worsening neurologic functioning.

Ann dedicated her life to helping find a cure for MS. She used every opportunity that came her way to use her condition to help others meet their own challenges. Even after her condition made her quadriplegic, her smile could light up a room.

Ann passed away earlier this year. We will miss her.

Paul & Brian, our NASCAR fans

The tenants of North Coast Community Homes (NCCH) who live with many types of seemingly debilitating diseases, usually meet me in their homes with large smiles and enthusiasm. Two of our tenants are great NASCAR fans. When you talk to them, they can tell you every historic detail about the sport, as well as who is in the forefront currently with such enthusiasm that you can't help to become totally engaged in the conversation.

Murcure having a bit of fun!

Jennifer, another of our talented tenants

Other NCCH tenants are fans of the various Cleveland-based sports teams, playing the piano, working on sewing projects and a huge assortment of other activities. They even enjoy going to work each day.

So, what is the secret to enjoying life?

In my experience, I have found it to be living to the best of your ability, helping others and being interested in and/or participating in engaging activities. If you sit at home and worry or complain about your lot in life, you will probably do it alone.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT & MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Since 1998 North Coast Community Homes (NCCH) has been partnering with the Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADM Board) in the development and maintenance of homes for people diagnosed with severe mental illness. We have learned that different and additional services are needed to support these individuals.

In Summit County NCCH tenants typically live independently in apartment units. Above is pictured our 20-unit apartment building located in Akron.

Housekeeping Program, Summit County

Due to the varying degrees and symptoms of the mental illnesses of our Summit County tenants, many have found the maintenance of their individual apartment units a major and sometimes an overwhelming task. To address this issue, NCCH has established a Housekeeping Program with three staff members.

The goal of this program is to have clean, well maintained apartments with the ongoing and progressive support of the tenants with the actual cleaning. Currently we have 40 tenants who are receiving regular housekeeping services. More will be added as the need arises.

The following stories illustrate the success of this program.

A Cedar resident had an unsanitary apartment that would fail annual Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) inspections for cleanliness although he had very few belongings in his unit. He has been receptive to our new housekeeping services and is now maintaining a clean apartment.

A Tallmadge resident had previously been asked to leave his living situations by other landlords due to cleanliness concerns. With the help of NCCH Housekeeping Services this is no longer an issue. His family has told us that they are very happy with our new service and they are pleased that he is taking part in the cleaning process.

A new tenant moved into one of our units and we immediately placed her on the housekeeping schedule as her support staff had explained that her previous apartments and been unsanitary and disorderly. She now maintains a clean and very homey apartment. She has told us that she likes where she lives and enjoys working with our housekeeping staff members.

Margaret Clark Morgan Impact Award

Stephen McPeake, President & CEO of North Coast Community Homes, and NCCH have been honored as this year's recipients of the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation's Impact Award for Innovation. This award recognizes individuals and/or organizations creating new initiatives and demonstrating an extraordinary influence in the field of mental health, arts or education.

Improvements in serving the clients with mental illness in our 20-unit apartment complex in Akron led to this prestigious award.

When this facility was first opened it was plagued with major disruptions due to the appearance of non-residents who regularly imposed their negative and harmful presence on our very vulnerable clients. Part time police patrolling was instituted to help alleviate this problem and security cameras were installed. Through the cooperation of Community Support Services (CSS), a behavioral healthcare provider in Akron, Darrell Hill, an employee of CSS, and Janice Stahl, the NCCH Housing Services Manager in Akron, 24/7 in-house support is now being provided to our residents.

Safe, well lighted hallways and clean kitchens are just part of the established program to assist tenants in Summit County.

These changes have brought dramatic results to the lives of the tenants who call this building their home. They now feel secure. You can see holiday decorations in the hallways and the facility is being kept clean and feels like a home. What a huge step to recovery for these individuals!

NCCH WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEE

Kristin S. Dailey, Executive Director of The Up Side Of Downs, a non-profit organization serving 1,200 families of individuals with Down syndrome in northeastern Ohio, has just joined the Board of Trustees of North Coast Community Homes. She has a brother, Matthew, who has Down syndrome. Kristin has a Master of Science degree in Educational Administration from The University of Akron and a BS Degree in Elementary Education in Special Education from the University of Dayton.

NCCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Susan H. Turben, Ph.D. is the first member of the newly created Advisory Council for North Coast Community Homes. She is head of Turben Development Services Foundation, a Kirtland, Ohio firm providing child development and parenting services for adults and their young children. She states, "Sharing knowledge is so important in light of current worldwide events which prove how vulnerable children are and how small and interwoven the world has become."

Ohio Governor's Office of Health Transformation

In February 2011, Ohio submitted a grant proposal to the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation seeking funding for a demonstration project to integrate care for individuals eligible to receive services from both Medicare and Medicaid (dual eligibles). This proposal is based on the common-sense idea that care coordination should serve the individual, not the system in which the individual is served; one person, one point of care coordination.

The grant funding was not secured, but the Ohio General Assembly has granted authority to the Ohio Office of Health Transformation to design and implement this integrated care delivery system.

Governor Kasich has also been meeting with county developmental disability agencies to focus on how these agencies have reduced overhead expenses and what future needs will include.

ISABELLA'S CLOSET

Many North Coast Community Homes (NCCH) Summit County Tenants come to us after living on the street or with barely enough belongings to fill a few trash bags.

One new tenant entered his apartment provided by NCCH with a sense of awe. This was his first home other than the streets since he was 14 years old. He couldn't believe he was about to be living in such a nice place.

Our Housing Services Manager, Janice Stahl, in memory of her infant daughter, Isabella, who enlightened those around her to innocence and beauty, has developed **Isabella's Closet, a donation program to help our Summit County tenants with their basic needs.**

Please review the list of new and gently used items that may be donated to North Coast Community Homes and then passed along to Summit County tenants in need.

New Items That May Be Donated

- Bath Towels
- Wash Cloths
- Twin & Full Size Sheets
- Pillow Cases
- Bed Pillows
- Twin & Full Sized Bed Spreads
- Small Rugs
- Shower Curtains & Rings
- Blankets

New or Gently Used Items That May Be Donated

- Dish Sets
- Silverware Sets
- Pans
- DVD or VCR Movies
- Brooms
- Dust Pans
- Cleaning Buckets
- Kitchen & Bath Trash Cans
- Tote Bags
- Clock Radios

These donations may be delivered to our headquarters at 14221 Broadway Avenue in Garfield Heights, or by calling Janice Stahl, NCCH Housing Services Manager, at 216-365-2625, you may make arrangements for delivery in Summit County.

All donations will be acknowledged by a letter. Each donation will make a huge and very real difference in the lives of our tenants in Summit County who have been diagnosed with severe mental illness.

Thank you!

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Resource Development Department is delighted to provide an update on its many activities to date in 2011.

Foundations

North Coast Community Homes is deeply grateful for support from the Foundation community. We have received grants from two new foundations -- The Enterline Foundation for $12,000 and The Welty Family Foundation for $5,000. We are also grateful for grants received from Berlin Family Foundation, The George W. Codrington Charitable Foundation, Deaconess Community Foundation, The Folk Charitable Foundation, The Harry R. Fox and Emma R. Fox Charitable Foundation, David and Inez Myers Foundation, Northern Ohio Golf Charities Foundation, Norma & Ernie Siegler Family Foundation, Stark Community Foundation, Susan and John Turben Foundation and William M. Weiss Foundation.

Special Events

Two major fundraising events have been held. On July 18th the Sixteenth North Coast Community Homes Golf Classic took place at The Country Club in Pepper Pike and raised over $135,000. Thank you to our corporate sponsors and golfers.

On September 17th Home Sweet Homes III, An Evening at Hickory Lane Farms benefit was held in Richfield, OH. The night was a terrific success! Over 500 people attended the benefit and we are delighted to report that over $520,000 was raised to help North Coast Community Homes develop and maintain safe homes for individuals with developmental disabilities and severe mental illness.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on December 6, 2011 at Windows On The River in Cleveland. In addition to keynote speaker, John Martin, we will be honoring Rick Osborne, Sr. with the Community Service Award for his long time support for housing for people with disabilities. We will also be honoring Gary Shamis, past Board Chair and strong supporter of NCCH for over 14 years, with the Above and Beyond Award.

Private Sector Contributions

Contributions from individuals are very important to NCCH and are requested through a variety of ways. Our year end request will be in the mail soon.

Volunteers

Our volunteers are greatly appreciated. We want to especially thank the Abrams family for its wonderful assistance in hosting this year's tenant picnic. Everyone had a wonderful time thanks to your generosity and thoughtfulness.

WrapTite golf foursome - left to right: Vishal Tandon, Steve Jain, Vijay Sharma and Suresh Bafna (Trustee)

From left to right: Ellie Brodhead, Home Sweet Homes Co-Chair, Shirley and Tom Moore (Tom is a Trustee of NCCH), and Barbara S. Rosenthal, VP of Resource Development

Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who helped at Home Sweet Homes, An Evening at Hickory Lane Farms benefit. You were terrific!

16th Golf Classic

July 18, 2011 *** The Country Club, Pepper Pike**

North Coast Community Homes (NCCH) held its 16th annual golf classic on July 18th at The Country Club in Pepper Pike. We are delighted to thank our 27 corporate sponsors and our 27 supporting sponsors who helped to support our mission of developing and maintaining homes for people with disabilities in northeastern Ohio.

Over $135,000 was raised at this annual event!

Thank you to Trustees Dennis Burnside, who hosted us at The Country Club and Dick Russ, who acted as our host and our wonderful volunteers, who assisted in making everything run very smoothly.

Our next event has been scheduled for July 23, 2012. Please sign up early for this sell out event.

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Michael Gabrail, Darnell Sanders, Shawn Gabretto, Paul Gabrail

Ian Abrams' Foursome
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Home Sweet Homes III Benefit

September 17, 2011 *** Hickory Lane Farms, Richfield**

Benefit Co-Chairs: Ellie and Peter Brodhead

Left to right: Steve McPeake, Mike Gavin, Gail McPeake, and in front, Katie Gavin

The third Home Sweet Homes benefit for North Coast Community Homes was amazing! Our hosts Tony and Lenny Petrarca, owners of Hickory Lane Farms, an Arabian horse farm in Richfield, OH, welcomed over 500 guests for an evening filled with wonderful friends and entertainment. The evening included cocktails, dinner, live and silent auctions and music provided by Hard Day's Night, a Beatles Tribute Band.

Over $520,000 was raised at this event! Thank you to everyone for supporting the mission of North Coast Community Homes so generously.

The Benefit Co-Chairs, Peter and Ellie Brodhead, the Home Sweet Homes Committee Chairs and Members, the Benefit Coordinator, Gretchen Greissing, and the many volunteers and NCCH staff members that worked to organize this event are deeply appreciated. Your hard work and dedication have helped to improve the lives of our current and future tenants, individuals with developmental disabilities and severe mental illness.

From left to right: Suzanne Holman, Sally Holman, Ronald Holman (Board Chair), Pamela Daves

Matthew Embrescia was the lucky winner of the 2-year lease of a BMW provided by Classic Auto Group

TENANT PICNIC, 2011

Volunteers truly make the difference! This year the Abrams family - Ian and Gloria Abrams, Shaw and Allyson Abrams, and Greg and Hallie Hurwitz Abrams - worked together to create a great picnic for the tenants of North Coast Community Homes at the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral Picnic Grounds in Parma.

John Polito provided the meat and grilled it on his huge grill. John also arranged for Slider, the mascot of the Cleveland Indians, to attend the picnic. We also thank Jon Greissing for donating and organizing the gift bags for all the attending tenants. Carol Pietch brought her guide dog for the tenant's to meet, Taraka Goodman Robinson was on hand for face and hand/arm painting and Gail McPeake served as the special disc jockey. We also want to thank all of the volunteers, including Stephanie Coburn, Linda Fouts and Jim Blackburn, who helped at this event.

The photographs on this page show how much fun everyone had!

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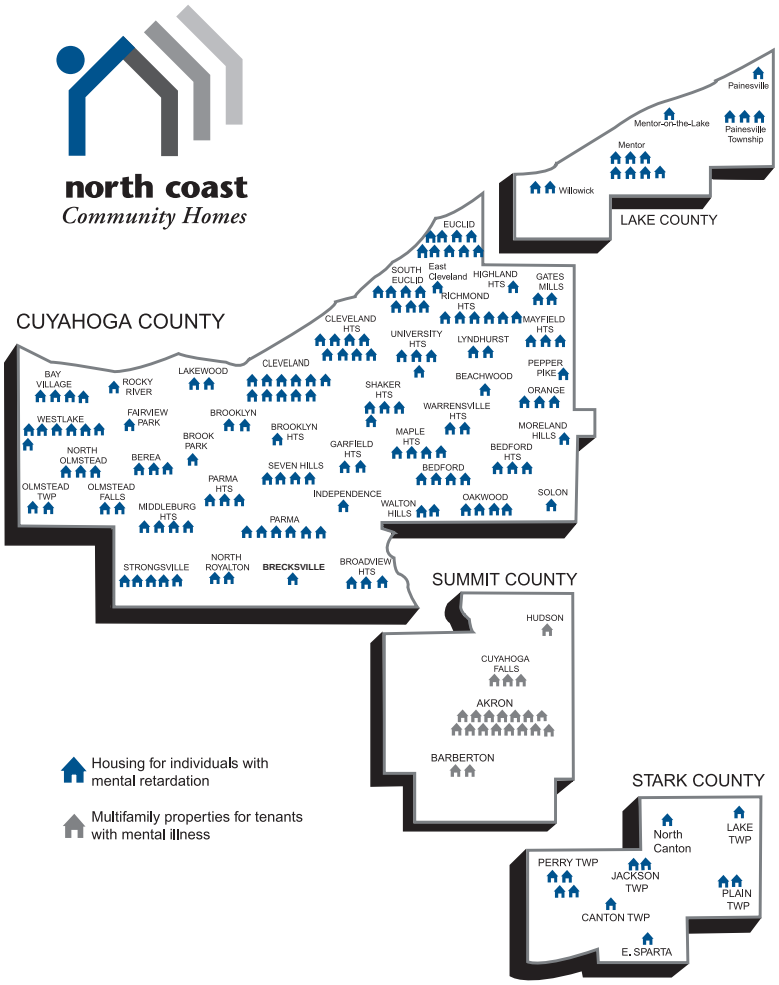

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