

Independence | Work | Education | Community



"TheBuzz"

December, 2019



See what we accomplished together.

Non-Profit Org. U.S. POSTACE PAID Arkadelphia, AR Permit #21

Welcome

Hello everyone, thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter today! This shows how your donations were spent throughout 2019. This was a very challenging year for intellectual and developmental disability providers like us, but we did not compromise the quality of services we provided to our clients no matter what we were going through. These tough times have brought us closer together and the GLI family is stronger than ever. Words cannot describe how helpful and encouraging your generosity and support were for us and our clients. We are grateful to have such a caring support group. Thank you for believing in our mission!

Sincerely,

Jukiko Daylor

Yukiko Taylor Executive Director

Hello From The Board Of Directors for 2019-2020



Pictured from left to right. Lisa Massey, Betty Gentry, Betty Eckhart, Dr. Charlotte Wright, Executive Director Yukiko Taylor, Dr. Tim Kauffman, Mike Hardin, Jerry Burrow, Dr. Rafael Bejarano and Carrie Price. (Not Pictured: Tony Hardage and Dr Bryan McDonnell)

Donor Appreciation Wall

Thanks to the very talented Gwen Mahaffey our new donor wall is up and looking sharp! On this wall we recognize donors who have made donations totaling at least \$200 throughout the year of 2019.



Every donor is important to Group Living and our clients. Every donation is accepted with gratitude and carefully spent in ways that will benefit our clients and the services we provide. With your help we can continue serving people with developmental disabilities here in Clark county so they can attain the highest level of independence of which he or she is capable.

<u>Mary Jo McCorkle 200 Club</u> Named in honor of GLI Lifetime Board Member Mary Jo McCorkle. When you donate at least \$200 per year.

Hattie Janek Club Named in honor of former GLI staff member to honor her leadership and dedication to our organization and clients for 40 years. When you donate at least \$500 per year.

<u>Reggie Peacock Club</u> Named in honor of one of GLI's most well known and loved clients. When you donate at least \$1000 per year.

Jane Lucas Club Few can match the love and impact that Jane Lucas has had on the community of Arkadelphia and Group Living's clients. This is our highest level for those who are donating over \$5,000 per year.

If you enjoyed this newsletter and believe in the work Group Living does please donate today and have your name displayed on our wall!

How You Can Help

Spread Our Story: Do you have a Facebook or Instagram account? Follow us and share our stories with your friends! Please tell your visiting friends and relatives about Group Living when they visit for the holidays!

Donate: Without you, the generous donors, who open their hearts and wallets we would not exist to serve the people we do. Simply donating any amount of money, even a few dollars a month, to Group Living has an enormous impact on our programs. Facebook Fundraisers: You can now host your own fundraiser benefiting Group Living right from Facebook! This is a great way to spread the word about Group Living to your friends and help us raise money for our important programs! Find out more on our Facebook page.

Get Involved: Attend our events. Volunteer your time with us. Talk to our clients when you see them around town. Play an active role in creating a better life for the people we serve and the community.

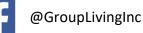
BINGO is hosted on the 4th Tuesday of each month excluding Christmas bingo. Games start at 6:30pm at the former Honeycomb.

Calendar of Events

-Disability Awareness Parade on Main St. : March 17th 5-6pm -DeGray Lake Yurt Camping Trip: April 2020 -8th Annual Gala: November 6th 2020

- Christmas Bingo: December 15th 2020

@GroupLivingArkadelphia



Contact Us

Phone: 870 246-5849

www.groupliving.org

Your Donations

In 2019 we raised over \$53,000 for our programs from donors like you! We are humbled by your generosity. Thank you for believing in our mission!

200 Club!

We had 46 Mary Jo McCorkle 200 club members this year. We are continuing to work towards our goal of 200 members! There is still time to join in 2019 if you haven't already donated, we need your help!

This is what GLI did for our 57 clients in 2019!

- 500 trips to doctor appointments
- 50 emergency trips to the hospital
- The Adult Development Center was open 234 days/ 1053 hours of independent living skills training, lunch and social activities from 8am-3pm
- Over 9,000 nutritious lunches served
- 1,053 hours in the classroom
- 64 day trips, activities and classes around Arkadelphia
- 37 jobs for clients at GLI
- Over \$112,000 paid in wages to clients for their jobs
- 365 days a year, 24 hour service from over 100 staff and Direct Support Professionals
- Almost 6,000 nights spent each year with DSPs providing one on one care and monitoring overnight in client homes



Parade Through Downtown Arkadelphia

This year we had our <u>1st Annual Clark County Develop-</u> <u>mental Disability Awareness Parade</u>. The theme was superheroes and <u>unmasking disabilities</u>, it was chosen to bring attention to the people and superheroes behind the mask. For us the "mask" is a disability that some people have. Showing the true face and personalities of the unique and hardworking people behind the mask of a disability is exactly what we accomplished.



Clients from both Group Living and the Human Development Center had



"We spend money in Arkadelphia like you. We like shopping, bowling and social activities. We like to spend time with our family and friends. We want to be accepted and liked for who we are. We want to live a normal independent life just like everyone else." their personalities on full display and they shared their message with the people in attendance.

The parade attendance was outstanding with around one dozen groups besides Group Living and the AHDC including the Arkadelphia High School football team, Dazzler dance team, HSU and OBU clubs and many others!

We ended with a very successful spaghetti dinner fundraiser donated by Benvenutti Italian restaurant and raised over \$1170!



Our next years parade will be held on March 17, 2020 at 5pm

If you would like to participate as an individual or group please contact Yukiko Taylor at ytaylor@groupliving.org

Bettering Ourselves

Improved Training: We are now in our second year of using Relias software for our DSP and staff training. We are very happy with the results we have achieved. Our staff are well trained and familiar with a wide range of topics related to client behavior and safety. The software has made the training more convenient and accessible for our busy DSPs. That means our clients will receive the best service possible based on their individual disabilities. This software was purchased with a grant from the Ross Foun-



dation. Thank you!

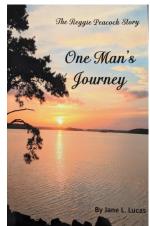
We Are Hiring So Tell Your Friends!

Group Living always needs reliable and friendly people to work with our amazing clients! If you have family or friends who might be interested in a job working with adults with developmental disabilities please tell them about Group Living. Please contact us for more information about our hiring process at FINANCE-HR@GROUPLIVING.ORG

Come Visit Us

There are many new faces around the office and plenty of program activities to show off. We hope that you can come get to know GLI a little better by stopping by for a visit! Call us to schedule a tour, we welcome all donors, potential clients, school classes and interested individuals!

Reggie's Story



On October 27th, which would have been Reggie's 65th birthday, we held a book signing and release party for Jane Lucas's new book about Reggie Peacock, <u>One Man's Journey</u>. If you knew Reggie this is one book you will want to read! There are some really great stories in it that will bring a smile to your face. <u>You can get your copy</u> for \$15 at the GLI office on Main Street in Downtown Arkadelphia.

Reggie was one of the first Group Living clients to move into his own home and with our help, live alone. Reggie was very insistent on this move so he made sure to tell us in his own way. He drew

pictures and took photographs that became more and more specific. He was insistent that he wanted to live by himself and when informed of challenges he would face like higher costs, he faced them and insisted we help him do this.

To take pride in your work, to earn a bit of money, to wake up and live the life you want to live each day is the desire we have for ourselves. It's also the desire of our clients. That is why we do the work we do, helping our clients achieve their dreams and reach their goals through choices and independence.

In the years that he spent with helpful people in the community and GLI, Reggie became a man loved by the people who knew him and recognized by the community as someone unique. Reggie was the favorite baker at the Honeycomb restaurant baking the delicious bread every day and in doing so he even earned himself a little bit of local fame.

Reggie passed away 4 years ago after living a life full of friends, personal achievements and

good memories. That kind of life is what we desire for all of our clients. Each of them has different goals, likes and dislikes, and unique personalities. That's why we work so hard to treat each client individually and encourage them to be the best person they can be.



Busy Bee



Our reliable Brandon Hart works at the Beehive. He is well known around town and our Beehive customers love his friendly personality and hard working attitude. Brandon likes working at the Beehive because he can work together with his friends and socialize, but also accomplish a lot when working together with everyone. Brandon says that he is very grateful for the people who donate items and for

the customers who come in and always greet him and the other workers so respectfully. Every one of The Beehive and GLI clients appreciates the time and effort made to include them and greet them just like anyone else. The Beehive is a very important place for our clients. Thank you for helping make it special.

Who is Answering Your Call?

When you call or visit Group Living you can expect to be greeted by several friendly faces and voices. One of those people is Jennifer. She has worked in many positions here helping us at the Beehive, on the house cleaning crew and now in the office! We are very glad to have Jen-



nifer be one of the faces visitors see when they come to our office! Jennifer wants you all to know that she loves working for Group Living and her favorite part about working the reception desk is that so many people come through each day and she can talk with them all. Make sure you come by and visit us and say hi to Jennifer when you get the chance.

Our Amazing Donors

We would not be able to provide the services we do without the generosity of these amazing people!

Thank you!

Nov 13th 2018- Dec 7th 2019

Mrs. Tommy Alexander Mr. and Mrs. Hank Armstrong Mr. and Mrs. Dub Arnold Mr. Rick Ashley Mr. Chris Avery Mr. and Mrs. Chris Avery Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Kav Mrs. Betty Bass Dr. and Mrs. Hal Bass Mrs Janet Benson Mrs. LaJuana Bivens Mrs. Kenneth Blackmon Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Branch Mr. and Mrs. Jim Brazil Mr. and Mrs. Gary Brinkley Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brosh Mr. and Mrs. Max Brown Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Buckley Mr. and Mrs. David Bunning Drs. Lan and Gay Burch Jerry Burrow and George Finkle III Mr. and Mrs. Bill Campbell Mrs. Shari Caradine Mrs. Caitlin Cavert Mrs. Erin Charles Mr. and Mrs. Paul Clarkson Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clements Mr and Mrs. Don Collins Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Conant Ms. Mary Condray Mr. Norman Coppernoll

Mrs.Deborah Cotledge Mrs. Dana Couch Mrs. Marchele Court Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Curtis Mr. Douglas Daniell Mrs. Jane Daughterty Ms. Greta Davis Mrs. Jetherine DeMoss Mrs. Heidi Doran Mrs. Bettie Duke Mr. and Mrs. Ron Echols Dr. Tim Kauffman and Ms. Betty Eckhart Ms. Jeanne Egger Ms. Sue Ehrgood Mr. James Engman Ms. Cleda Faulkner Ms. Fran Ferguson Mr. Grey and Dr. Penny Ferguson Mr and Mrs. Ray Fizer Mr. and Mrs. John Flake Mr Jim Fletcher Dr. and Mrs. James Ford Dr. and Mrs. Gary Gehrki Mr. Brooks Gentry Mrs. Betty Gentry Ms. Jan Germany Ms. Brenda Gills Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Good Mr. and Mrs. John Gosdin Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Graham Ms. Lee Green

<u>Roy Marion - Patterns Of Life at</u> <u>The Arkadelphia Arts Center</u>

Our long time Beehive employee Roy Marion held his first art exhibit at the Arkadelphia Arts Center this past spring. His art style is very distinctive, featuring fantastical characters and seasonal themes. He produces work that ranges



from small canvases to pieces that cover a full size door with astounding speed. He is a fountain of creativity when it comes to his paintings and we hope he keeps up the great work!

Roy displayed over 50 of his pieces for this show and he took the time to talk with each guest about each piece and the story behind them. Roy enjoyed hearing the attendees interpretations of some of his more abstract works.

He sold nearly two dozen pieces during and immediately following his show. He also accepts commissions. Please contact Yukiko at ytaylor@groupliving.org if you are interested in purchasing a piece.

Bowling

Every month the GLI bowling team heads to Hot Springs to visit Central Lanes to play a few rounds. Bowling has been very popular with our clients and there are usually more than a dozen people who participate on each trip. It is a great opportunity for bonding and team building for our clients,



but our clients are also very competitive and a little friendly challenge is always accepted.

Bowling is a great way to stay active and maintain strength as our clients get older. It is also a great confidence builder for them so we really enjoy these trips. We just wish we still had a bowling alley here in Arkadelphia!

On The Catwalk

Our clients never miss an opportunity to talk and take their turn in the spotlight for a fun afternoon. This year's Beehive fashion show was an opportunity for them to get out of the house, put on some fancy shoes and enjoy themselves for a few hours! They showed off the amazing donated clothes that come into the Beehive thrift store, donated by our generous community. Our emcees for this year were Gurdon Mayor Sherry Kelly and



GLI's Aubrey Hill. The highlight of the show were of course the clients wearing the hottest fashion, but also popular were the small segments where clients could come up on stage and talk directly to the over 100 people in attendance. This was a great chance for them to let their individual personalities shine under the spotlight and to show their appreciation for the people who came to watch. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our clients!



Aubrey says, "Thank you for taking us fishing. I had a good time." He cant wait to go back next year! Marvin loves taking trips to the community garden.



Mrs. Angie Greer Mrs. Audrey Gregory Rev. and Mrs. James Guthrie Dr. Julia Hall Ms. Suzanne Hardage Mr. Daniel Heinrich Mr. Aubrey Hill Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ho Dr. and Mrs. George Hollenbeck Mr. Tom Hollingsworth Mr. and Mrs. Myron Horton Mr. and Mrs. Tom Howard Mr. Brian & Mrs. Claudia Hunt Mr. and Mrs. David Hunt Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Hunter Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Hutchins Mrs. Corrine Johnson Mrs. Connie Kolb Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Ketchum Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kizziar Mr. and Mrs. David Kraft Mrs. Deborah Jones-Lee Mr. Robyn Lee Ms. Caryl Linton Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Locke Mrs. Chelsea Lov Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lucas Ms Jane L Lucas Mrs. Shauna Lucas Dr. and Mrs. David Lupo Mr. and Mrs. Pat Lynch Mrs Gwen Mahaffey Mr. Ralph and Deborah Mann Mr. and Mrs. Garth Martin Mrs. Amanda Mathews Mrs Carolyn McAnally Miss Bretta McCain

Mr. and Mrs. Ed McCorkle Dr. and Mrs. Bryan McDonnell Mrs. Betty McKim Mr. and Mrs. Jerry McMillion Mrs. Jill McMillan Mrs Ralph McQueen Mr. Tommy Medlock Mr. and Mrs William Mertins Mr. Joel Mever Mr. Jacob Morgan Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Morro Ms Dannie Morrison Ms. Cynthia Moten Mrs. Carolyn Myers Mrs. Jessie New Mrs. Claretta Newborn Mrs. Crista Bennett-Neal Mr. and Mrs. Mark Nierengarten Mrs. Sandy Parry Mrs. Patricia Pennebaker Mr. and Mrs. Gene Pfeifer Mrs. Krissen Piggee Mr. and Mrs. Bill Priakos Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Price Mr. and Mrs. Pete Prutzman Mrs. Jane Ouick Mr. and Mrs. Richard Reedy Ms. Sharon Ricardo Mr. and Mrs. Doug Rucker Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Runyan

> A disability should not prevent a person from being a vital part of the community.

Mrs. Linda Schuck Ms. Dianne Sealv Dr. and Mrs. Philip Seeger Dr. Margaret Shaw Mrs. Raymond Smith Mrs. Britta Stamps Mr. George Surgeon Mr. Elmer Sveda Mr. Mac Tatman Mrs. Melissa Tatman Ms. Yukiko Taylor Mrs. Romanetha Terry Mrs. Gloria Tizzano Mr. and Mrs. Kevin VanAcker Ms. Bettye Wallace Mrs. Kim Ward Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ware Mr. and Mrs Virles Wasson Mr. and Mrs. Craig Welborn Ms Sarah Wieman Mrs. Patricia Wilson Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wilson Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Williams Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Williams Ms. Devetta Williams

Mr. And Mrs. Bert Wingfield Mr. and Mrs. Dale Wintroath Dr. Charles Wright Mr. and Mrs. C B Wright Arkadelphia High School Cone Foundation Kerr Fund **Ross Foundation** Sunrise Rotary Club Brookshires Heart & Key **Cabe Foundation** United Way Southern Bancorp South Central AR Electric Allcare Pharmacv Garner's Tire and Automotive, Inc. Abilities Unlimited of Hot Springs Arkadelphia Regional Economic-**Development Alliance** Keith Smith Company, Inc. **Knights of Columbus Georgia Pacific**

2019 Gala Sponsors!



Facts about our Direct Support Professionals

Under our Medicaid Waver service we currently employ over 100 Direct Support Professionals. They come from all walks of life, each with their own personality. We work hard to match clients and DSP's who will get along well with each other. Because our workers and clients spend so much time with each other, it is important that they can get along well and both support each



other in different ways. Whether a client is more reserved and wants someone to hang out with and watch tv or do puzzles, or if the client is very active and wants to take lots of trips around town and play basketball, we have a DSP for that. Our DSPs also help teach our clients living skills like cooking, portion control and household chores. Many of our DSPs come from OBU and Henderson so we have a lot of energetic people and new faces to help our clients and expose them to new things and in return our clients expose our DSPs to disabilities in a way that will positively impact their views in the future.

More Like Family

Every year holidays, birthdays, good days and bad days come and go for our clients. Having someone with you on those days is important to everyone. All of GLI's clients are adults, they are not children living with their parents and for many of them family is a long way away, and for some they do not have any at all. Luckily, GLI has an amazing staff of people who care about each and every one of our clients, and many have developed incredibly strong connections with the people they work with every day. Group Living clients are greeted like family and sit down to enjoy holiday meals at many family dinner tables. This wouldn't be possible without the supporting community that accepts and welcomes our clients with open arms.

Sammy Landers is once such client and he spent this past Thanksgiving with one of Group Living's Direct Support Professionals and their family here in Arkadelphia. Sammy loves the holidays and is happy to see familiar faces when they come around!

Lunch Is Served!



Having energy for a full day of work and school is important, that's why Monday through Friday the Adult Development Center serves healthy home cooked lunches to 45 clients. The head chef who keeps the kitchen running smoothly is Betty Barton. She has been with Group Living since 1995. We count on her experience to get everyone fed and all of our lunches are nutritionally approved by the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program. The most popular meals are chicken and dressing,

chopped bbq sandwiches and chicken strips. One of the best parts about working at GLI is Betty's loving personality and the delicious and convenient lunch that is right across the street at our famous ADC!

The Beehive

The Beehive is a very important part of GLI. It helps fund Group Living's programs and it provides jobs for 27 of our clients. In order to keep the Beehive running well, we have completed substantial changes to the way donations are processed and the arrangement of



the back rooms of the Beehive. With help of Student Athletes from OBU and Henderson, we have made the Beehive a more efficient, safe and enjoyable place to work. Monday through Saturday clients come to help turn the donated items we receive into money to fund our programs. They sort, clean, price and stock everything that comes through the doors. Those donations help pay for the clients' wages from the Beehive and they help fund other GLI programs like the ADC and the numerous activities that our clients participate in each week. These donations are very important to our clients. If we did not receive the amount of donations that we do, we would not be able to have as many clients working to process it all. You are not just donating items to the Beehive, you are creating an opportunity for our clients to work, build confidence and receive a paycheck!

Connecting to the Community

Just a short drive in any direction from our facilities you can find some amazing places; Ouachita Baptist University, Henderson State University, Degray Lake State Park, Hot Springs and Little Rock. There are so many opportunities near our little corner of Arkansas. We love making those opportunities available to our clients. This year we have been able to attend baseball games,



go on hikes, visit the state capital, perform on stage, have breakfasts with friends in the community, visit local shops and be active in many Arkadelphia social circles. This is one of the most important things that GLI does for our clients. We make sure they have a chance to be



seen and to make their voices heard in the community. The more our clients are involved in the community, the more they can learn to live independently. Being exposed to many people, places and ideas helps them become contributing, involved and positive people.

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80's Night: Our 7th Annual Gala

Thank you for coming to our Gala!

We were very excited to see so many new faces and we hope you all enjoyed yourselves and met some of the clients and staff that make up the GLI family!

Thank you for coming to our gala! We were overwhelmed with joy to see the tremendous support from you all on this day! Because we deeply appreciate your



continued support throughout the year, our goal for the night was to give back to you and make sure you were thoroughly entertained and were able to enjoy yourselves with the food, dancing, auction and friends who came!

The auction donations, sponsorships and ticket sales make it possible for us to hold this party and the success of each gala represents how much

love and support we receive from you in the community. We are honored to host such an amazing fundraiser for you and raise so much money for our clients at the same time!

Words cannot describe enough how thankful we are. Our Gala is one special night that GLI staff clients and the community unite for one common goal. Thank you to everyone who donated and attended! You have helped adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities have choices and become independent and important members in our community.





Next year's theme has been chosen and we are already planning a few surprises for anyone who plans on attending <u>November 6th,</u> <u>2020. Mark your calendar!</u>

ADC/Program Highlight

When people who have a developmental or intellectual disability leave high school and turn 18, their options for continued education and work are limited. Many are not able to easily fit into society the way non disabled persons do.



In high school they stay busy from morning until afternoon. They have a place they belong, with their classmates and friends. Once they graduate they do not have that option anymore and many fall into a situation where they are stuck at home while their family or guardian are at work. Their friends go off to college or find jobs or

move away. Finding a place in the community where you feel that you belong is tough when you have a disability.

That is where the GLI Adult Development Center comes in. We provide a safe and fulfilling place for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to come and learn independent living skills. We provide a place where they can continue to achieve through classroom learning, social activities and community involvement. They are given expectations and opportunities where they can gain confidence and blossom. This is a place

where they know they are needed and wanted.

The ADC is a bustling center of activity located right in downtown Arkadelphia. It is a fun and social setting where people with IDD can be themselves around their peers. With GLI they are given an



Bappy Jeacher Apprecation

opportunity to challenge themselves and take advantage of opportunities that they won't have sitting at home.

From the beginning, Group Living has worked to set itself apart from other providers. Our goal is to allow people with an intellectual or developmental disability to have the most independence possible while still receiving the necessary support depending on the level of their disability. We accomplish this through highly individualized care plans which are overseen by employees with many years of experience and a passion for providing the best service to the disability community in Arkadelphia.