



Open Door Rehabilitation Center

The Voice

Serving Adults with Developmental Disabilities

March - April 2012

Open Door Clients go Soaring... To the Bald Eagle Watch at Starved Rock State Park

Starved Rock State Park is known to be home to hundreds of migrating American Bald Eagles. Bird watchers from all over gather the 4th weekend of January to see the majestic birds and attend The World Bird Sanctuary Show at the Starved Rock Lodge.

The seasoned bird watchers from Open Door have made several friends over the years that have helped us plan a fun-filled day. To ensure seating for the show, we reserved tickets from our friends at the Illinois Audubon Society. When we arrived, members of the Audubon Society greeted us and helped us get to our front row seats. They chattered happily as they awaited the show, even taking advantage of some photo ops. This year, they made a new feathered friend, the mascot of the Bird Sanctuary Show! The group listened to the skilled handlers as they told about the many types of birds that come to Starved Rock for the winter; mostly to fish the waters of the Illinois River.



Welcome to the Show!



Ann Y. and Feathered Mascot



The Majestic American Bald Eagle Proudly Perched

**OPEN DOOR
REHABILITATION CENTER**

The Voice is the bi-monthly newsletter of Open Door Rehabilitation Center, a not-for-profit organization serving adults with developmental disabilities.

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The Voice welcomes your questions and contributions of news of interest to our friends and supporters.

Contributors:

Rita Potter	Tami Carper
Terra Stetz	Tammy Rooks
Laurie Wisdom	Becky Clemons
Candi Baker	Gene Stephens

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Amazing Bird perched for Trainer

A film was shown of the well known majestic Bald Eagle gracefully leaving the perch to soar through the air just above the waters. With the prey in sight, and a quick dip down with large talons out, a fish is caught! Wow! They make it look so simple. Some of our Bird watchers are fishermen also. When the show was over, the group moved on to see if they could see the Bald Eagle in action. They reported sighting many eagles perched in the tree top but did not see "The Bird of Prey" in action. Oh well, they'll be back next year to reunite with friends and birds alike!



Brian H. and Audubon Member



**-Ft row Feathered Mascot, Lynn S., Pat B., Mike P., Jack P., Bill B.,
2nd row Brian H., Mary V., Kyle H., Jen M., Dean S.**

EXPLORING THE PAST

On February 10th, we enjoyed a day long trip down Joliet's Memory Lane at Joliet's Area Historical Museum. The museum was formerly known as the Ottawa Street Methodist Church at the intersection of Cass and Ottawa Streets.

As we entered the museum, we were greeted by a very nice and informed lady who turned out to be our tour guide for the day. First, she educated us on the museum's entrance exhibit which was dedicated to the many travels along the famous Route 66, which was "The True Main Street of America". This was quite exciting for everyone to learn about, see, and touch some of the Route's history. The consumers were thrilled when our tour guide made the suggestion that they sit in one of the cars for photos. We also snuck in a photo with the Blues Brothers.

After that, we were on to the second of many sections of the museum and we were equally amazed by this experience. It began with a state-of-the-art audio-visual presentation of the people of Joliet, their past and how they lived, worked, traveled, and built the foundation for today's thriving community we know as Joliet.

The museum hosted many life-sized models, award-winning touch screen visuals and even a



Back Row: Vecente W., Fallyn M., Brooke S., Daniel P., Jason M., Brian H., Tammy R., Sue C., Tammy V., Kyle H.

Front Row: Lori B., Barb N., Beth M. and The Blues Brothers!



step-in Lunar Lander Simulator that all of the consumers took full advantage of by trying their hand at landing on the moon's surface. Everyone agreed it was pretty cool.

At the end of the visit, we were full of information to take back home with us to share with others. Due to the museum's ever-changing exhibits, we are already looking forward to a return visit. Thanks to the Joliet Area Historical Museum, we had a great day, and they allowed us to travel through time without venturing far from home. Thanks again, J.A.H.M..



L to R: Brooke S., Vecente W., Lori B., Brian H., Kyle H., Jason M., Fallyn M., Beth M., Sue C.

OLAF REACHES OUT A HELPING HAND



Photo courtesy of "The Voice" newspaper based in Aurora

A smiling Olaf Gjovik presents a check to Quendred Carpenter, a member of the Open Door Board of Directors at the Veterans' Breakfast Club of which Olaf is a member. He had recently returned from the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. Executive Director Dave Baker comments, "Olaf has generously supported Open Door for many years. He is an asset to our local community and we thank him wholeheartedly for all of his support."

QUEN SHARES HER TALENTS

Quendred Carpenter began sketching at art fairs in 1967 and still continues today. Most recently, Quen has been sketching veterans at the Fox Valley Veterans' Breakfast Club. In lieu of payment, Quen has kindly offered them the opportunity to give donations to Open Door, which is very much appreciated. Quen has long been a supporter of Open Door and has served on the Board of Directors for over 43 years!

One need only visit the conference room at Open Door to view Quen's sketches and oil paintings of the founders and their children, Dr. Robert Coleman, President Emeritis, and his wife, Edie. Of course, one of the most treasured sketches is that of the consumers. Quen also used her artistic talents in designing Open Door's logo, timeline, and numerous other creations.

Quen was fortunate to be an art student of Open Door Co-founder Dave Graf at the D.O. (Diversified Occupations) program in the Sandwich School District. Graf recommended her for a draftsman's position at the James Knights Company where Open Door's other co-founder, Bill Squier, was her supervisor.

In the early years, Quen was named "Outstanding Designer" at a statewide art camp. The Ford Foundation awarded her for an original furniture design. After winning her county's scholastic scholarship for tuition to the University of Illinois, she entered the School of Art.

In 1980, Quen sketched the entire fifty-nine member Illinois Senate. Four years later, she was commissioned by McDonalds Corporation to develop instructional material to aid the Ronald McDonalds when visiting children in hospitals, and presented this at McDonalds Hamburger University. Quen as co-author of the published "A Moderately Amusing Book" also illustrated 165 pages. As an acrylic painter, Quen has created many murals: Community Bank of Plano, Somonauk Baptist Church, Old Barn Museum, and, most recently, Timber Creek Inn & Suites.



Pictured: Quen sketches Olaf

We at Open Door, as well as the community, are very fortunate for Quen's continued involvement and inspiration!

Working Together without Prejudice...

In our business, it's not uncommon to have the generous support, help, and interest that we have from our community. We have a lot of volunteers, donations, and people who take time to mentor or spend time with our consumers. Sometimes, though, there is that special star that will jump out and make you take notice. Sometimes, it's just the uniqueness of the group or person that makes you think...hmmm... that is really cool!

On January 24th I had the pleasure to work with an amazing group of stars; The SLIP II program. And before I go any further

explaining what this program is, I want to say Thank You to all the wonderful young men and women who came to work at our workshops on that day. You are amazing young people and the consumers had a ball with each and every one of you. Ok, that being said... can you tell they did a great job?

This was actually an extension of the original SLIP program. These kids liked it so much they wanted another year! SLIP stands for Student Leadership Initiative Program and is directed and supervised through Kendall County Outdoor Education Center (KCOEC). The SLIP program is an experiential and multicultural leadership training program. It is for high school students in the

DeKalb and Kendall County areas with four public high schools in Oswego, Plano and Sandwich. The program's main focus and purpose is to teach our leaders of tomorrow how to get along and work effectively with each other regardless of race, gender, religion, ethnic or socio-economic backgrounds. Using experiential and

adventure education techniques, the students learn leadership, creative problem solving, and effective interpersonal skills. This would involve small group outdoor challenge experiences such as: low challenge courses, urban exploration, wilderness challenges, and community service days. Through all of these experiences, the students are placed in real life situations that require leadership, trust, responsibility, communication, cooperation, planning, and problem solving.

It is important to note, and not forget, that the educators involved with this program deserve a big high five! The KCOEC staff instructors that supervise and work with the students in the SLIP program have made experiential and adventure education their profession. Understanding that this group of students was on their second year of SLIP, the supervisors really were able to hang out and enjoy themselves as well. There was a unique feeling of respect and honor amongst all participants and the supervisors as well. In the second year, the students actually choose their community

service project, make the contacts, set everything up, and then follow up afterwards.

When the group came that morning,

KCOEC staff supervisor Mark works on a craft with Tim H.

I divided them up with our different class leaders at East and the MAT (Material Assembly Training) supervisor at West so they could work one-on-one with staff and learn what we do every day. Then in the afternoon, they flip-flopped buildings and helped with lunchtime and MAT work at East, then classes and programming at West. They were well received at both buildings and did an outstanding job! I was very happy to have this group come to help us at the workshops. The happy smiles on the faces of our consumers (who LOVE company!!) and

then again the smiles on the students' faces showed me that they really like what they do. It makes such a huge difference...even just ONE day... can mean the world here at Open Door. I am still being asked when the group will return. All I can say for now is "not soon enough!"



SLIP II member Justine (L) and friend working at East with Rebekah T.



Some of the wonderful students having lunch at West with Eric H. (second from the right)

First Aid/Safety Education

What should you do for cold or heat related illnesses? What are the symptoms of a heart attack? How can I be better prepared for emergency situations? These are just some of the questions asked and answered in the Open Door “First Aid & Safety Education” course.

A group of individuals, the majority of them living independently in the community, gathered to learn what they can do to help in a variety of emergency situations, how to be better prepared, and how to avoid these situations in the first place. With the help of Gene Stephens, Residential Coordinator and certified Safety Instructor, the group learned about cardiac emergencies, sudden illnesses such as stroke, and environmental emergencies such as heat stroke and hypothermia.

Individuals got the opportunity to ask questions, discuss the answers, and share stories and personal experiences. The course was a huge success. In fact, the group has decided to make the course into a series of classes to be offered throughout the year so that they can continue to



Top: Gene Stephens, Residential Coordinator



Top: Gene Stephens, Residential Coordinator



Gene with David S. demonstrating proper techniques to help someone who is choking

educate themselves and be better prepared citizens. First Aid and Safety Education is one of those things that you never hope you have to use; however, it is great to have as a skill.

Open Doors, Open Spaces

It is official: All 20 of the consumers who were asked stated that they love the new lunch room! For those of you who have not been eating your lunch at our West facility lately, we were able to renovate some of the area in the back of the building to a new program area that also happens to be where the gang at West meets each weekday for lunch. We were able to achieve this dream due to the generosity of a consumer's family members, Leland Lions Club, and the DeKalb County Community Foundation. Debbie B. raved about the "excellent conditions" and gave it an A+.

But wait, this new area is not limited to lunches, as both staff and consumers have been coming up with other uses. Stephanie K. said that she is figuring that we now have "more room for dances." In addition to a location for getting our grooves on, the space has also already been used for showing films with the projector, just like at the theater!

An interesting point of the new room is the thought that was put into it for the consumers. Kim A. commented that while she appreciates that there are "more microwaves, what I really like is the floor." Besides looking really cool, the floor is textured to help people with unsteady gaits. Staff member Tony M. said that he too really likes the "skid proof floor because of the safety factor." Another staff member, Sonia B., said that "the new handicapped accessible restrooms are convenient and the extra space makes our jobs easier." Program Coordinator Laurie W. summed the area up nicely when she stated that "the whole room has a nice feel."

Thanks again to the all of our donors for continuing to think of us during these economic times and helping us to continue on our path. The financial support from those in our area is always appreciated and to us, the strength garnered from our community is a testament as to who we are not only as an organization, but as individual donors, businesses, volunteers, foundations, and, of course, lunch buddies.



Stephanie K. and Kyle H.

OPEN DOOR'S 20TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2012

EDGEBROOK COUNTRY CLUB

Reminisce (or more likely) experience for the first time what it was like to live in the **Roaring 20's!** You've got your **G-Men**, boot legger, your Wets and your Drys, rum runner, and a **flapper** or two. Don't forget the moonshine, **Yak-Yak bourbon**, and bathtub gin!

Will there be gangsters? Too many to list! Yes – they will be accompanied by their Tommy guns. We're sure Rick will bring his magic music with among other favorites: *Ain't we got fun? Yes, we have No Bananas. I Wish I Could Shimmy Like My Sister Kate.*

And while you're there - remember to participate in **Open Door's 20th golf outing!** Shhhhh . . . Remember your **secret code and handshake** to get into the **Blind Tiger!**



HOLY COW!!

Chet C. does it again!!



Open Door staff and consumers would like to congratulate Chet C. on his 15 year anniversary working for Wal-Mart! In August 2011, Chet received his 15 Year Service Award. We would like to let Chet know that we are very proud of his accomplishment and his perseverance. Chet is a shining example of how successful the Supported Employment Program can be when local employers take the time to train and accommodate people with special needs. Always remember, "When you meet, see or think about a person with a disability: PRESUME COMPETENCE." Yet again, Chet proves this over and over. Way to go, Chet!!

CHECK IT OUT!



Pictured L to R: Open Door Executive Director Dave Baker, consumer Eric H., Castle Bank Representative Brad Simmons, consumer Angie H., Castle Bank Representatives Kathy Porter and Denise Habbe, and consumers Russell G. and Angela T.

Castle Bank recently extended its support of Open Door Rehabilitation Center during a special check presentation. Sandwich branch manager Brad Simmons, Plano branch manager Kathy Porter, and Denise Habbe, community business banker, presented a check to Dave Baker, executive director, to benefit the consumers at Open Door.

Baker expressed his deep appreciation for Castle Bank's long standing support of Open Door's programs and services. "Open Door is fortunate to have the loyal ongoing support of local businesses and individuals. This allows us to maintain excellence in difficult times and to continue to serve our existing consumers."

LOOKING AHEAD

Annual Membership Drive 2011 – 2012
Parents' Picnic June 15, 2012
20th Annual Golf Outing July 25, 2012

OPEN DOOR'S 6th ANNUAL GOLF BALL DROP TO BENEFIT ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

On Wednesday, July 25, 2012 at 12:30 PM – 500 numbered golf balls will be dropped at Edgebrook Country Club. The three golf balls which land on the mark or closest to the mark will win cash prizes! Winners will be announced at the PM Banquet Dinner. Winners need not be present to win!

(You don't have to be a golfer to play!)



1st Prize \$1000.00

2nd Prize \$500.00

3rd Prize \$250.00

**Frost Electric Co., Inc. and
Craig & Gail Martin**
Have provided their truck and efforts for the
GOLF BALL DROP since 2008!

**Please help support programs
that serve our consumers!**

Please complete the form below and return with payment so we receive on or before **Monday, July 16th**. Please allow plenty of time for mailing. Upon receipt of your check, your name and number for your golf ball will be entered into our database for the golf ball drop competition! You will receive confirmation of your purchase and your number(s)! For a copy of the contest rules & regulations, please contact Candi Baker: candi@odrc.org, Phone: 815-786-8468, ext. 222, Fax: 815-786-6241



\$10.00 for 1 ball

\$50.00 for 6 balls

\$100 for 12 balls

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Ph: _____

Email Address: _____

Enclosed is my payment of \$_____ for _____# of golf balls.

Memorial Day



We are offering you the opportunity to participate in
Open Door Rehabilitation Center's

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

In honor of Memorial Day,
We are dedicating space in our May/June newsletter issue for a
MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE PAGE.

This tribute will be exclusively dedicated to those who have passed away before us

Please return bottom portion of this page along with monetary gift
by April 30th to meet the printing cut-off date.



(Please cut on dotted line and return this portion to Open Door.)



MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE IN BELOVED MEMORY OF

(Please check box if deceased was a U.S. Veteran.)

(Name of deceased): _____

(Name of deceased): _____

Donor's Name: _____
(As you wish it to appear in newsletter)

Address: _____ **City:** _____

State. _____ **Zip:** _____ **Ph:** _____

Who should receive notification of your memorial gift?

Name: _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____

State. _____ **Zip:** _____

Contributions & Memorials

Listed below are contributions & memorials received between 1/1/12 & 2/29/12.

We deeply appreciate all of the honorariums, memorials, & donations give to Open Door. For your convenience, we provide a donation envelope in each newsletter. We hope you find this to be helpful.

Thank you very much! We are deeply grateful to you for all of your support!

Contributions

Augustine Brothers Painting & Decorating	Becky Gavin	Louis & Beverly Mayer
Brian & Charlotte Anderson	Jo Gregory	Kevin & Linda McVicker
Roger & Jean Anderson	Dennis & Virginia Gregory	Linda Melson
Anonymous (5)	Margaret M. Grist	Shirley Menk
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Stacey & Karlene Dolder	Emma Kinsel	Vern & Melva Sebbly
Walter & Margaret Droppa	Lake Realty/Bob & Donna Guehler	Dale & Jeannie Shatters
Forester & Lois Jean Du Sell	Leland Farmers' Company	Harold & Joy Short
Robert & Phyllis Duffy	Ed & Ora Lee Lenertz	Shirley Simonson
Edward Hospital	Gary & Mary Leonard	Fran Sittler
Eyecare Center of Sandwich	Buzz & Sue Lindholm	Steve & Myrna Skopek
Forrest & Cindy Farley	Virgil Lippold	Arthur & Marlene Smith
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John & Gwen Fox	Frank & Constance Matias	Gene Stephens
Lawrence & Mary Jo Gardner	LaVerne Mattson	

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Spence & Pokie Zitka
Ray & Joan Zobott

Memorials

In Memory of Mercedes "Cedie" Andoe

Shirley Menk

In Memory of Mark Alan Baker's 22nd Birthday

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In Memory of Joan Brauweiler

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Olson

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In Memory of Edna Mae Carlson

Robert & Anna Henrich

In Memory of Willbur "Billy" Carlson

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Margaret Raske

In Memory of Odin Christian

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Glenda Dobbs

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Jim Dirst

In Memory of Cedric Fatland

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Jeff & Patty Marco
Robert & Denise Morel, Jr.

In Memory of Hank Feldott

Dorothy Dearden

In Memory of Eric Filip's April Birthday

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Gene Olson & Carrol Dannewitz-
Olson
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Rich & Jeanne Baker
Mary Ann Stevenson

Memorials (Cont.)

In Memory of Harvey & Magdalene Haas

Janet Baker

In Memory of Corrine Holstein

Howard & Lauretta Holstine
Richard & Kay Konow
Karen Vilmin & Julie Stubbe

In Memory of Ray Ingle

Dorothy Dearden

In Memory of Eileen Johnson

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John Guehler
Ron & Kim Henrich
Patricia Myers
Roger & Bonny Rankin
Patti Webber

In Memory of Robert "Bob" Kiley

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Ron & Kim Henrich
Buzz & Sue Lindholm
Denise & Ken Mestemaker
Gene Olson & Carrol Dannewitz-Olson
Mary Ann Stevenson
Tom & Betty Thomas

In Memory of Andrew Kuebrich

Dave & Barbara Voss

In Memory of Kady Larson

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In Memory of Mavis Legner

Alan & JoAnn Adams & Family
Eugene & Mary Adams
Dave & Candi Baker
Rich & Jeanne Baker
J. Michael & Carole Cronin
Delores Devine
Duke & Janet Fanning
Don "Pete" Farley
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Nancy Larson
Gary & Vickie Lemke
Denise & Ken Mestemaker
Matthew & Joanna Olson
Jim & Kathy Potter
Robert & Margaret Shumway
Sarah Stevens
Mary Ann Stevenson
Mary Stout
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Lynn & Jane Wesson
Doug, Judy & Genevieve Weiss

In Memory of Bob Lessick

Maxine Coffman

In Memory of Virginia Elaine Littlejohn

Katherine Littlejohn

In Memory of Sadako Mano

Dorothy Dearden

In Memory of Harold "Buzz" Melges

Richard & Kay Konow

In Memory of Victor Edward "Cody" Meyer, Jr.

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Ron & Barb Johnson
Carol Meyer
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In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Morel

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In Memory of David Parisot

Thomas Warren

In Memory of Carl Perryn

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In Memory of Elmer & Margaret Reuter

Dr. Judith Mazion

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Michael & Deborah Wendt
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Kyeong Woo & Jin Yang Kim
David & Paula Zielke

In Memory of Marquita Sheedy

Phillip & Elly Peterson

In Memory of Emma Snyder

Delores Devine

In Memory of June Schumacher

Richard & Kay Konow
VPI Friend

In Memory of Helen Sears

Maxine Coffman

Memorials (Cont.)

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Phillip & Elly Peterson

In Memory of Miriam Edie Stahl

Patricia Myers

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Underwood***

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Rich & Jeanne Baker
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Jim & Sally Donahue
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Olson
Roger & Bonny Rankin
Fred & Mary Schepler
Shirley Vezain
Thomas Warren
Patti Webber
Donald & Jean Wegener
Doug, Judy & Genevieve Weiss
Lynn & Jane Wesson

In Memory of Mavis (Mazie) Walton

Mary Ann Stevenson
Roger & Bonny Rankin

In Memory of Richard (Dick) Wasson

Pamela Banbury & Family
Judith Caves
Crystal Dollinger & Family
Barbara Meyer
Everett & Eunice Sampson
Carol Thayer
Tom & Betty Thomas
David & Barb Voss
Thomas Warren

***In Memory of William "Bill"
Westbrook***

Bob & Kathy Fredrick

In Memory of Roy Wright

James & Josephine Castelli
Robert & Denise Morel, Jr.
Jim & Kathy Potter

Honorariums

In Honor of Todd Feldott

Charlie & Nancy Pierce

In Honor of Veronica Fraser's 90th Birthday

Delores Devine
Denise & Ken Mestemaker

In Honor of Robin Goldsmith's Birthday

Matthew & Alice Brennan

In Honor of Hyo Sun Oh & Seung Woo Lee's marriage

Cecil & Debby Smith

In Honor of Dave Oram's Birthday

Beryl McKanna

In Honor of Jim & Kathy Porter

Bill & Teresa Porter

In Honor of Marge Prendergast's 90th Birthday

Denise & Ken Mestemaker

In Honor of Brian Tucker

Beryl McKanna



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SANDWICH T-BALL ASSOCIATION DONATES JERSEYS



Open Door was fortunate to receive these jerseys donated by the Sandwich T-Ball Association. Winners of the Sandwich T-Ball Raffle donated the jerseys back to the association and in turn, the association donated to Open Door which held raffles. Executive Director Dave Baker remarks, “We thank the Sandwich T-Ball association and sure appreciate their support of our day and residential programs.”

L. to R. Danny and Derek Thomas happily display the jerseys donated by the Sandwich T-Ball Association.