

Serving Adults with Developmental Disablities

May - June 2009

It's Fair Time.... JOB FAIR Time that is!

On February 26, 2009, Open Door had its First Annual Job Fair at the West Workshop. All consumers participated in this two-hour event. There were not only jobs to learn about but raffles, give-a-ways, food and fun games to play. This was all to kick off the new job training programs that we have created.

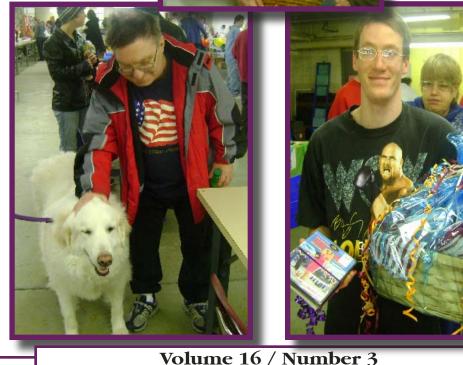
The booths were set up by the staff that would be doing the training, teaching the classes and working with the consumers. It was a lot of fun to put together, decorating the workshop, setting up booths to draw the consumer's attention. The consumers started out with an introduction to how the Job Fair would work, and then they got their sign-up cards to take around



something for everyone.

The programs represented were: Making Dog Treats, Computer Lab, Micro Farming, Cleaning, Consumer Supervisory Aide, Trader Wagon, Chef's Kitchen, Home Delivery, MATs and Card Making. (Descriptions of each program are provided inside this issue of The Voice.) Each staff member had their own "thing" going to attract clients to their booths. The staff in the Chef's Kitchen were dressed in aprons, chefs' hats and mustaches, and served hotdogs, cupcakes and cookies. At the Dog Treats booth, one staff member brought in her Great Pyrenees to walk around and greet the clients. Several gift baskets were raffled off including Teddy

to the different booths. Once they stopped at a booth and got information about the job program, their cards were signed and they put their name on a registration form. Some clients signed up for everything and some were very choosy. but there was definitely



Bears, ingredients for cooking an Italian dinner, and the Micro Farming booth raffled off fruit!

One of the biggest attractions was being able to go hands-on in the Computer Lab. Clients were able to print pictures, write a story on Word, surf the Internet or

The Voice

Open Door Rehabilitation Center



The Voice is the bi-monthly newsletter of Open Door Rehabilitation Center, a notfor-profit organization serving adults with developmental disabilities.

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learn something new about the computer. There was a long line there, for sure.

After a very busy morning, the feedback from the clients was amazing. They were all very excited about the new job training opportunities, and each one had at least two jobs they were ready to jump right into. Staff had a lot of fun too. It was really great to see the excitement and enthusiasm from the clients and knowing that good things were going to start happening in what seems to be a difficult time in the economy. Open Door is ready and obviously willing to keep training our clients to keep their current skills and learn new skills to progress with the community and its needs, as well as the clients'. This was definitely a breath of fresh air to start the new year off on the right foot!







Welcome to the Chef's Kitchen

Welcome to the Chef's Kitchen. This is one of Open Door's newest entrepreneurial endeavors owned and operated by individuals served. The Chef's Kitchen is a group of individuals that provide baking and catering services to staff and consumers throughout Open Door. Each week the





group bakes and sells goodies with the help of the Trader Wagon at the ODW workshop. Every other Friday, the Chef's Kitchen takes orders and prepares hot lunches like hot dogs, hamburgers and nachos. Any profits made from the sale of these items is shared among the group members and so far has proven to be very lucrative.

Who's MAT?

Who's MAT? MAT is not a who... but a what. MAT stands for "Material Assembly Training," a new program at the ODW workshop. MAT is a combination of several different training tasks consisting of sorting, sizing, counting, packaging, etc. The big difference with MAT jobs from other training tasks is that individuals actually get paid for this type of training. The purpose and theory behind MAT is that during these tough economic times, when community jobs are scarce, that we help individuals maintain or even improve their skills until the job market rebounds.



Computer Lab

Through a very generous donation, Open Door received enough computers to develop a computer lab. The new computer lab allows individuals to learn computer basics and explore a technological world. Individuals are learning to operate a mouse, type letters, perform data entry and research topics on the Internet. Our intent is to train individuals for future job placement in the clerical field.





Home Delivery Program

The Home Delivery Program helps Open Door provide a variety of "free-of-charge" products to individuals living in our group homes. Individuals receive their choice of prepared lunch items, soda/pop, and personal hygiene



products. The Home Delivery Program does just what its name says. Each week, individuals place their orders (with the help of staff) and the Home Delivery Program completes these orders, separately bags them and delivers them to the homes. This is a huge money and time saver for the individuals and also provides employment opportunities.



Micro-Farming

For years, several individuals have spent many dedicated hours tending to garden plots full of fresh vegetables with great success. This simple gardening hobby triggered a thought...why not sell the produce? Great idea! Making money doing something you love! Surveys were sent out to research the most popular items so they can make sure there is a plentiful supply of goods. Peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers are a small sampling of our expected inventory. The garden plot will now be the home of the new Micro-Farming project. Our enthusiastic farmers are ready to break ground. Watch for our market stand!



The Trader Wagon

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 10 am an announcement is heard throughout the West Workshop proclaiming, "The Trader Wagon is now open for business!" Basically, the Trader Wagon is a mini-convenience store on wheels that provides the opportunity for consumers to shop for packaged snacks, fresh baked goods,



beverages, and other small items like batteries and headphones for a reasonable price, all without having to leave the building! A few consumers were hired and trained to run the Trader Wagon by handling the purchases and making change, as well as helping to restock items when they run low. The Trader Wagon has been a success so far, and looks to continue meeting the needs of the consumers as well as providing skills and training for those running it.



Dog Treat Making



Open Door launched its homemade dog treat business on May 16 at the Yorkville Animal Hospital, where a booth was set up to sell gournet dog treats. Two groups of consumers have been meeting weekly to test out different recipes for their homemade all-natural dog treats, and have settled on four delicious varieties. The consumers work together to make



the dough, cut out the shape of the dog treats and then bake them. They will also be responsible for packaging the dog treats and getting orders ready to be picked up. In addition to cooking skills, they will also learn customer service skills by calling customers to confirm orders and set up pick-up times for the orders.

If you would like to place an order, please contact Carrie Werner at (815)

786-8468, ext. 269. The following varieties are available for purchase: Shush Puppies ½ dozen-\$2, 1 dozen-\$3.75
Peanut Butter Puppy Poppers ½ dozen-\$1.50, 1 dozen-\$2.75
Cheesy Bites ½ dozen-\$1.75, 1 dozen-\$3.25
Doggie Delights ½ dozen-\$1.50, 1 dozen-\$2.75



Card Making

The clients of Open Door are adding a personal touch to the card making industry. Specially-made cards are designed for all occasions. There is no end to the creativity. Several groups make cards throughout the week. They already made Mother's Day sample cards and were free to all of the clients as a one-time promotional offer. Currently, they are preparing for the upcoming holidays and special oc-



casions. All cards will sell for \$1.25 and the card makers will split the profits. Please watch for future information to purchase our "specially-made cards."

Cleaning Program



We have revamped and expanded our cleaning program. Individuals learn chemical safety, proper cleaning methods and customer service techniques. Individuals are trained with the hope of eventually being placed in the community providing cleaning services.



Yard Work

Let this group free up your time and beautify your yard and landscaping. You, the homeowner, decide how much or how little needs to be done. Whether it is raking, pruning, putting in or pulling out foliage we are here for you! Our staff will come to visit, access your needs and come up with a service agreement. We can come as much or as little as you would like. The highly-trained individuals will come to your door on your scheduled day with their supervising staff to meet you before they tackle your project. This crew has also been trained on potential safety issues and will notify others of things that may be harmful. To set up a meeting, contact Shawn Tessmer at (815) 786-8468, x266 for additional details about our program.





Consumer Supervisory Aide

The Consumer Supervisory Aide (CSA) is a new training program at Open Door, but not a completely new concept. We have always encouraged consumers to help

each other, but this is actually training for a job in a care-giving field. Consumers that showed interest were chosen to work with the Developmental Training clients at the East building. CSAs will work under Staff group leaders assisting with activities, trips and programming as needed. CSAs will be support and back up for busy days or when a staff member is sick or on vacation. After class work there will be on-the-job training before actively working independently. All of the consumers seem very excited for this new venture and we hope that eventually this training will help our clients get jobs out in the community in care-giving fields such as daycare, assisted living, nursing homes, youth centers or senior citizen centers.



Where Are They Now? She's the farmer's daughter... Kim R.

Kim Thompson was born

ley Thompson in El Paso, Texas.

She was the second child in the

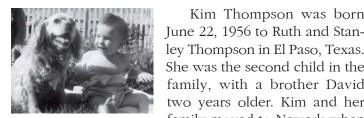
family, with a brother David

two years older. Kim and her

family moved to Newark when

she was about three months old

and she grew up on the family's



Kim at about one year old.

farm. "I loved growing up on a farm," says Kim, "it was wonderful." Stanley farmed corn and soybeans and Kim remembers having sheep

too. "My brother and I each had a baby calf to raise, but then we had to sell them." Ruth, Kim's mom, was a homemaker and a waitress. Her dad passed in 2002 and her mom currently lives in Warrenville. Brother David lives in South Dakota. Kim and her husband have visited him several times. "It is a long trip though!" laughs Kim. One memory that made Kim chuckle was remem-

bering a roller coaster-type toy that her grandmother had in the yard. "It was yellow, made out of wood and metal, with a red cart. We would ride that thing all day," Kim said. "Those were the days."

After attending Sandwich and Somonauk schools, Kim graduated from Sandwich in 1976 at age 20. She started with Open Door in the old workshop on Fayette Street when she was 18. Then, in January of 1976, Kim moved into



Kim (far right) with Nancy Stralka, Dietta Ketchum, Mark Gillen and Nancy Marshall.



Kim's 4th birthday

with mom Ruth and

brother Dave.

Kim (far left-back row) with the Flash.

Living

Facility). This was her first time living away from family. "It was very scary," said Kim, "but everyone made you feel so welcome that the scariness went away."



Kim at CLF in the '80s.

While living at Open Door during the late '70s, early '80s, Kim participated in Special Olympics, competing in swimming and the 50-yard dash, earning several ribbons and medals. Kim was also a participant in the Open Door Basketball Team 'The Flash.' "Oh, those were good times." Also around that same time, Kim and her then

boyfriend Mark G. went to the Virgin Islands for a vacation. Mark's sister Pat was teaching school there and had them come for a visit. "We went by ourselves," Kim said, "and it was so nice." It was only her second time on an airplane, "and that was the last place I would have ever thought I was going," she laughed. Kim said it was just fun being together, learning about the culture and that it was just gorgeous.



Mark L. and Kim in the Virgin Islands.

In 1982, Kim moved into her own

apartment. She has had several community jobs including McDonald's, Burger King and Wal-Mart. Even during that time, Kim worked at Open Door as well.

On September 4, 1985 (can you believe she remembered the exact date?), at the old Yum-Yum Shoppe in Sandwich, Kim met William "Skip" Rogers. "We met

through my friend Greg," Kim said. We were married five years later on September 1, 1990. "It's hard to believe we will be married 19 years this year!" Skip is an avid antique tractor collector and they show

their tractors every year at the Sandwich Fair. Skip and Kim also like to travel, taking vacations to South Dakota and Florida. They currently live in Plano and Kim still works at the Open Door Workshop.

"Open Door has been really cool. The workshop, the friends I have made through the years," said Kim, "have helped me become more mature. I have learned a lot about myself and others. It's a wonderful place." Where is Kim now? Right where she belongs.



Kim and Skip's wedding photo.

A Fond Farewell...



Laura Haag, a Rehabilitation Counseling student from NIU, has been at Open Door as an Intern since January 5, 2009. She was a wonderful addition to the staff and really left an impression on the clients. She has worked closely with the Case Managers learning the job, working with clients on staffings, goals and new rehab classes and activities. We are really going to miss Laura at Open Door and want to thank her from the bottom of our hearts for all of her hard work. We all wish you the best of luck in your career and future.

Thanks to "My Buddy"

Adaptive equipment was purchased for Roger H. by utilizing the donations allocated to Medical Expenses in the "My Buddy" program. Roger lives in one of Open Door's group homes and sometimes when he wakes up in the middle of the night he is disoriented. This non-skid alarm mat helps keep him safe. It has a built-in alarm/transmitter, which triggers a remote receiver/alarm up to 100' away. When Roger steps on the mat, the alarm sounds and the residential aide is immediately alerted, preventing a possible accident. Thanks for helping to keep Roger safe in his secure environment.

Hearty thanks to all of our "Buddies" who contributed to the needs of our consumers from March 1, 2009 through April 30, 2009.

Frances Hansen – Activities Betty Phillips French – Activities Shirley Vezain – Activities

Just a few of the exciting summer activities planned are: Brookfield Zoo, hiking at Starved Rock, Vintage Baseball at Somonauk, Sycamore Speedway, Cougar game, Splash Country, Star 34 Restaurant and Red Oak Nature Center.

If you would like to contribute to the "**My Buddy**" program, simply designate which category you would like to sponsor and mail in with payment:

Medical Expenses Home Furnishings Personal Care Items

We appreciate all that you can do!



Electronics Personal Toiletries Activities & Outings



That's right! Open Door now has a website!

www.odrc.org

We hope you will be as excited as we are!

Learn more about our **programs and services**! Take a walk down **Memory Lane** in our archives! Get a **quote** for assembly work! Read **the newsletter** issues! Email us **questions**! **Donate online**!

We hope you'll be patient with us! There are still **more features** to be added! It's a **"Work in Progress."**



BOBBY HOLMES 17th MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING TO BENEFIT OPEN DOOR REHABILITATION CENTER!

> Wednesday, July 29, 2009 Edgebrook Country Club in Sandwich



A Few changes this year, folks!

EDGEBROOK flip-flopped the front and back 9s and the Pro-Shop is now in the Main Building. You will still register at the former Pro-Shop and that is where the golf carts will be parked.

* AM GOLFERS Hot Dog Lunch is added to golf package and price is \$70.

* AM and PM GOLFERS (1) Banquet Dinner offered in the evening 6:30 – 7:00PM

The following competitions will be tallied at the end of the day for AM & PM golfers: LOW TEAM SCORE, CLOSEST TO THE PIN and STRAIGHTEST DRIVE

MANY SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE! (Please see registration form!)

For reservations, contact Candi Baker at Ph: (815) 786-8468, ext. 222 Fax: 815-786-6241 Email: candi@odrc.org

Please mail payment & registration so we receive on or before July 1st!

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BALLOONS OF FUN FOR ALL !!!



Peanuts! Popcorn! Cotton Candy!

Complimentary Traveling Show Beverage Carts circulating all day!

Quench your thirst at any or all of the three complimentary beverage holes: Tattoo Patti's, Frosty's, or the Ringmaster's!



Test your skills at the Lion Tamer's Game Match!

Come as your favorite circus character – but only if you want to . . . Clown (can never have too many of those), juggler, aerial artist, **lion or better yet - lion tamer!**











GOLF REGISTRATION

7:00 AM SHOTGUN START Check-in & Early Bird Breakfast 6:30AM - 7:00AM Hot Dog Lunch 11:30AM - 1:00PM

\$70 Includes the following: Golf & Cart Continental Breakfast & Hot Dog Lunch **\$85 Includes** all of the above And Evening Banquet Dinner

2

1:00 PM SHOTGUN START

Check-in & Hot Dog Lunch 11:30AM - 1:00PM

\$65 Includes the following: Golf & Cart Hot Dog Lunch **\$85 Includes** all of the above And Evening Banquet Dinner

(Please return bottom portion with payment no later than July 1st.)

Please check the appropriate boxes.						
		7:00 AM Shotgun Start	OR			1:00 PM Shotgun Start
Name_			_ 🗆	Golf Only	□ Golf	f & Evening Banquet Dinner
Name			_ 🗆	Golf Only	🗆 Golf	f & Evening Banquet Dinner
Name				Golf Only	🗆 Golf	f & Evening Banquet Dinner
Name			_ 🗆	Golf Only	🗆 Golf	f & Evening Banquet Dinner
I am sorry I am unable to participate, but would like to donate. Enclosed is my donation of						

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

	□ \$ 300 Photos & Prize Money
\$1000 Barnum's Hot Dog Lunch	□ \$ 300 Snacks & Prize Money
□ \$ 800 (Limit 3) Bailey's Evening Banquet Dinner	\square \$ 300 Sweets 'n Early Eats
□ \$ 500 Traveling Show #1 (Beverage Cart)	2
□ \$ 500 Traveling Show #2 (Beverage Cart)	\square \$ 300 Tokens for Clown Alley
□ \$ 500 Tattoo Patti's Beverage Hole #1	□ \$ 300 Decorations & Picture Boards
6	□ \$ 250 Kelley's Hole Sponsors
□ \$ 500 Frosty's Beverage Hole #2	□ \$ 150 Eagle's Nest
\$ 500 Ringmaster's Beverage Hole #3	□ \$ 100 Eagle
□ \$ 500 AM Golf Carts	\square \$ 50 Birdie
□ \$ 300 Lion Tamer's Game Match	$\square \Rightarrow 50 \text{ Birdle}$ $\square \$ 25 \text{ Par}$
- + • • • • - • • • • • • • • • • • • •	D V / Par

□ \$ 25 Par

Please make checks payable to Open Door. Mail or drop off no later than July 1, 2009 to: Open Door Rehabilitation Center, 405 S. Wells St., Sandwich, IL 60548				
Name (as you would like	e it to appear in Program/Si	ign):		
Contact person:				
Street:		City:		
State:	Zip:	Ph:		



MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE Honoring Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Signifies United States Veteran

In Loving Memory of Harold, Joe, & Bill Allen Joyce Allen

In Loving Memory of Mary L. & Tom C. Andresen

Patti & Tom Andresen

In Loving Memory of George M. Babich, Jr. Dave & Mary Ann Benson

In Loving Memory of Max E. Bagg Jim & Sharen Gerlick Joshua Gerlick

In Loving Memory of Roy & Minnie Baie Phyllis Sauer

In Loving Memory of Donald Bark Joanna Bark

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In Loving Memory of William "Bill" Dimond Paula Dimond *In Loving Memory of John W. Farley* Dorothy Farley

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In Loving Memory of Lynn Hough Norma Hough & Family

In Loving Memory of Sandra Harmon Jerry & Donna Leonard





MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE

Honoring Those Who Have Gone Before Us

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	Signifies	United States	Veterar
	Significos	0	,

In Loving Memory of Charles & Luella Mall Phyllis Sauer

In Loving Memory of ^PJim McNish Bernie & Kim Frieders & Family

In Loving Memory of Richard H. Meier Roxanne Eickhoff Rita Meier

In Loving Memory of Kenneth R. Mestemaker Ken & Denise Mestemaker

In Loving Memory of Paul Moss Hank & Marie Watkins

In Loving Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Otis Oddson Jerry & Donna Leonard

In Loving Memory of John Harvey Parris Gary & Jo Anne Parris

In Loving Memory of 🏴 Harold, 🏴 Earl, &

Floyd Paulson Bob & Sue Paulson Randy & Barb Shook

In Loving Memory of Stuart F. Phillips Betty Phillips-French Family In Loving Memory of Alvin Pierson Roger & Barbara Pierson

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In Loving Memory of Leigh Sauer, Jr. Phyllis Sauer

In Loving Memory of Randy Shook, Sr. Randy & Barb Shook

In Loving Memory of Ken & Mary Shumway Dave & Candi Baker, Brent & Kelsey

In Loving Memory of Harold "Sam" Stevenson Mary Ann Stevenson

In Loving Memory of Stanley Venardi Donald & Mary Hendrickson

In Loving Memory of Lucille Weber Butch & Etta Stahl



Contributions & Memorials

Listed below are contributions and memorials received between 3/1/09 and 4/30/09.

We deeply appreciate all of the honorariums, memorials, and donations given 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
Anonymous (3)	Michael & Carole Cronin
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In Memory of Wendell L. Smith, Sr.

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In Honor of John & Zada Pekoc's 60th Wedding Anniversary

Maxine Coffman & Family

In Honor of Miss Maye Sebby's 90th Birthday

The Michael Gunier Family Robert & Fern Sebby

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Smith's 54th Wedding Anniversary Charles & Mary Mahara

In Honor of Ken Stinson's Retirement from Caterpillar David & Barbara Voss

In Honor of Eileen "Ike" Weber Clarion & Jean Swenson

LOOKING AHEAD:

Annual PicnicJune 19, 2009
17th Annual Golf OutingJuly 29, 2009
Lemon Shake Ups at Sandwich FairSept. 9-13, 2009
Rambo's Poker Run for Open DoorSept. 20, 2009



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