

Friends of WCDC Newsletter

January 2015

2014

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

2015

Cathy's Corner

Happy New Year My Friends

As 2014 comes to an end, I've been reflecting on all the changes that have taken place at WCDC & all that has been accomplished over the past year.

I am so proud that I have had the opportunity to work with clients, families, staff, Friends members & wonderful people in the community as the mission & the importance of the quality programs offered by WCDC is made known throughout the Delmarva area.

Working together in 2015 we will continue our efforts to educate the public and gather support for WCDC and all the individuals who participate in the program.

We have great events planned for 2015 & each one is filled with fun & fellowship. I hope you will join us.

Cathy Gallagher

WCDC & Friends Events

*January 5 -

Day Program Re-Opens

*January 12-

Friends Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM

*January 14-

January Birthday Party - Noon

*January 19-

Martin Luther King Day -

Day Program Closed

*January 20 -

Board of Directors Meeting - 6 PM

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"We will open the book. Its 365 pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called 'Opportunity' and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

Edith Lovejoy Pierce

## 2015 Dues

Friends of WCDC Membership dues are due now.

Annual dues are \$5.00 per person.

Checks can be made payable to 'Friends of WCDC'  
Please return to WCDC- Attention Cathy Gallagher or  
mail to 338 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21811

Worcester County Developmental Center

PO Box 70, Newark, MD 21841

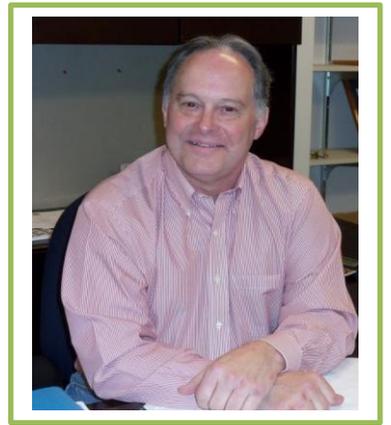
410-632-2382

[www.wcdcservices.org](http://www.wcdcservices.org)

## *From the Desk of Our Executive Director*

Please take the time to read this carefully.

Over the past year, I have been letting you know from time to time about the changes coming from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS) to the state, and how they may seriously impact what we do at WCDC. Work centers such as ours are under fire across the country. Too many people in positions of power don't see the value in the services we provide. They feel you either get a job in the community or you engage in community-based, socialization outings.



What is missing is choice. Our clients should have the choice in what they want to do. If volunteering or going on outings is what they prefer, that is their choice. But if they want to come to WCDC and work, they should be allowed that choice, too. As oftentimes happens when government is involved, they paint with a broad stroke and hinder the very results they are seeking.

The building we have constructed was put together with the purpose helping our clients work and earn a paycheck. Ultimately, for everyone, our goal is to train our clients and help them get jobs in the community, but for a lot of our folks, that will not happen. We have many people who can work and work well under our supervision, but who would not be successful working in the community.

Our mission is to help our clients become economically independent. This is very significant. For all the high-level talk from CMS and DDA about independence and community integration, we believe that it starts with work. On a fundamental level, if you don't have a dollar, you can't make any choices. You have to rely on others to provide for you. If you have a dollar, you can decide to go for dinner or to a movie. How many times have you paid the bills, looked at your checkbook and realized there is little or nothing left? Your choices become very limited if you don't have that dollar.

If we are striving to make our clients like everyone else, what is more "normal" than going to work? Work not only helps us provide for ourselves and our families, it is how we contribute to society. Our clients know that. When we have recreation or socialization activities at the center, they always enjoy themselves. But they know the difference between that and work. I see them leave the center and they say, "I worked today." The pride of accomplishment is apparent.

Next week I will be attending a meeting in Easton that will discuss these changes. I will be coming back to you with this information. I will most probably be asking all of you to make your voices heard to your resource coordinators, the regional and state offices of DDA and to all your elected officials that you want CHOICE. This is not a time to stay silent. If you do not make your voices heard now, there will not soon be another chance to change policies that rob our clients of their choice.

### **We Need Your Help!!!**

As you will read later in this newsletter, Friends is sponsoring a Float in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in an effort to promote the upcoming Finnegan's Wake that will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup> at Seacret's. If anyone has a flatbed truck and is willing to allow Friends to decorate it and use for the parade we would be most appreciative. If you have any suggestions or contacts that we can make please call

Jack Ferry @ WCDC 410-632-2382 ext.117 or Cathy Gallagher @ 570-956-4721. Thank You.

# December Birthdays

December 10, 2014



Jack & Mary Ferry, Monique Smith, Jeromey Johanson, Kern Taylor, Libby & Eddie Davis, Gordon Ashley  
Missing from the photo are Gretchen Cooper & Thomas Jones

## January Birthdays

Jackie Merritt – Jan. 2  
Brandon Smack – Jan. 3  
Oliver Phillips - Jan. 5  
Nicole Miles – Jan. 11  
Terry Robbins – Jan. 13  
Lauren Powell – Jan. 20

Ron Mehring – Jan. 21  
Courtney Mullis – Jan. 24  
Hilda Connor – Jan. 25  
Jeanie Zueger – Jan. 27  
Dawn Gray – Jan. 27  
Michael Fentress – Jan. 30



# American Legion Christmas Party

December 13, 2014



**“Let our New Year’s Resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity in the finest sense of the word” Goran Persson**

# OC Lioness Club Christmas Party / Dunes Manor December 17, 2014



Friends of WCDC Christmas Party  
December 19, 2014





# Santa Claus and his Helpers came to WCDC with gifts for all the Clients



A Very Special 'Thank you' to the Members of Friends of WCDC, Staff, Board Members, Families and all our supporters in the community for making this 2014 a wonderful year. The beautiful smiles in the pictures above are proof of all the happiness you have made possible.



# Proposed Events for January thru June 2015

All of the events sponsored by WCDC & Friends of WCDC have several goals in addition to raising funds for the Program. They include educating the public about the abilities of individuals who live with a disability and providing insight into the quality programs offered by WCDC. Combining fun and education promises to be a winner.

## March 14, 2015 – St. Patrick’s Day Parade - Ocean City

Friends will be sponsoring a Float in this year’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade. The Float will be a prelude of the characters and fun filled activities of the upcoming Finnegan’s wake.

## March 21, 2015 - Finnegan’s Wake

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Finnegan’s Wake will be bigger and better than ever. This year’s entertainment will be the renowned ‘Irish Lads’ based in Northeast PA. Performing up & down the east coast & on Gaelic Cruises, The Irish Lads bring a little bit of the Emerald Isle to every venue they play.

## April - Friends Oldies Dance

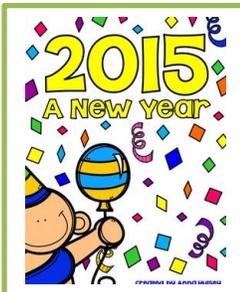
The responses to our recent survey were all positive and so Friends will be sponsoring an ‘Oldies Dance’ in April of 2015. Details will be firmed up shortly. This ‘Stroll down Memory Lane’ will feature music from the 50’s & 60’s and is sure to transport you to the fun times of our youth.

## May - ‘Art for Friends Sake’ Art Show & Silent Auction

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual ‘Art for Friends Sake’ Art Show and Silent Auction will once again fill the walls of WCDC with culture and special talents of individuals who live with a disability. The evening will also offer entertainment, refreshments and an exciting live auction. Watch for the announcement of the date and time.

## June - Annual WCDC Golf Tournament

Area golfers always look forward to the WCDC Golf Tournament. Reasonable fees, delicious food, fantastic Door Prizes and a top notch golf course are only a few of the wonderful items that make this day a ‘must’ for men & women who enjoy a day on the Links. More information will be available soon.



**Happy, Happy New Year!  
We wish you all the Best!  
Great work to reach your fondest goals,  
And when you’re done sweet rest.  
We hope for your fulfillment,  
Contentment, peace and more,  
A brighter, better New Year than  
You ever had before.**



Friends of WCDC members joined Santa, Mrs. Claus, Frosty & Rudolph when they delivered Presents at WCDC on December 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a great day!



Pictured are:  
**Front:** Santa, Mrs. Claus, Rudolph, Martha Mongella  
**Back:** Frosty, Diana Howard, Frieda Truitt, April & Libby Davis, Mary & Jack Ferry, Sr.

### Friends of WCDC

The purpose of Friends of WCDC shall be to see that the needs of people who live with a disability are made known to the community and that these needs are being met. The members of Friends of WCDC shall be advocates for the individuals who live with a disability within the community and are participants in the programs of Worcester County Developmental Center. Friends of WCDC shall provide support and assistance to WCDC whenever possible

#### Friends of WCDC Need YOU!!

- Meetings are every 2nd Monday of the month in the WCDC cafeteria
- Meetings start at 6:00 p.m. and last one hour.
- Yearly dues are \$5.00.
- New members are welcome at any time. Your talents and ideas are welcome.
- All our projects are fun filled.
- All our efforts support the clients and programs of WCDC

#### 2014-2015 Officers - Friends of WCDC

President – Cathy Gallagher

Vice President – Mary Ferry

Secretary – April Davis

Treasurer – Jack Ferry, Sr.

PR Coordinator – Virginia Azadi

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### Friends of WCDC Membership Slip

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent  Board Member  Family Member  Staff Member  Client  Interested Individual

Please return to Jack Ferry at WCDC or mail to: Cathy Gallagher  
 338 Ocean Parkway  
 Ocean Pines, MD 21811