

New Beginnings

Volume 1



Issue 4

Judy's Story of Success!

When Judy first came to Spurwink/RI's day program entitled "*VocLinks*," she was a shy, anxious woman who wanted to re-enter the world of work after many, many years of unemployment and/or "workshop" type of work. She was ready for a major change, but she was very fearful of taking that next step. After finally being convinced by both peers and staff to "give it a try," Judy painstakingly agreed to "try out" a few different jobs with a *VocLinks* employment specialist by her side.

As Judy's confidence and comfort level increased, she was now ready to make the leap to a paid position with both on and off-site supports provided by *VocLinks* employment specialists, Ann Sepe and Angela DeFreitas. Initially, Judy was not used to getting herself up and out each day in a timely fashion and keeping to a fixed schedule. She lacked initiative and was unsure of what to do during any "down time" at the job. She was confused when different managers varied their expectations or requirements of her. With the assistance of the *VocLinks* staff and through Judy's participation in the Job Club, Judy was able to problem solve and overcome these minor obstacles. According to Liz DeSalvo, Burger King Manager, Judy makes her feel proud. This employment situation has turned into a mutually beneficial situation. Judy now enjoys the routine of her job and the personal satisfaction of completing a job to the best of her ability. She especially likes the paycheck she takes home each week and is happy to be a productive member of her community. Burger King has benefited from Judy's dependability and cheerful nature. They have been so pleased with her growth that they proudly acknowledged her contributions as Employee of the Month in May of 2003.

The *VocLinks* employment specialists are direct care staff who are out in the field on a daily basis, working as job coaches, doing job development, and assisting people within their homes and communities to achieve greater independence in their lives.

Re-Focus, Inc. and *Spurwink/RI* are proud to recognize Ann Sepe and Angela DeFreitas for their contribution to Judy's Story of Success.

Aaron Briggs Residence

Getting ready for the Christmas parties, Joe went to the mall to get his haircut and to look around for Christmas ideas. He enjoyed his first time there. He liked riding the electric stairs. He enjoys his new dog, which he brought to the office to show off.

Through all the ups and downs that Terry has been going through, he took some time to relax and enjoy a movie at the IMAX Theater, "SPIDER MAN 2."

Mary wants to thank all for enjoying her day in New York. We went to go see "THE ROCKETS." Then we walked around to enjoy the scenery. We also bought some souvenirs to remember the moment.

Parkside Residence

Over the past few months, several new staff have come to Parkside: Tonya, Maiyer, Minah, Wilhelmina and Vannay. Welcome to each of them. Sola Onanuga has become the new in-house hairdresser. Janice and Linda are sporting new "do's" thanks to Sola. Sandy and Charly went to vote on November 2 and Charly felt very proud and is anxious to go again next year.

Sandy is thrilled with her Dream Grant certificate for a new "soft bed." Charly is busy making plans for her trip to Connecticut with her Dream Grant. Sandra took a trip on the Providence–Worcester Railroad to Worcester and Putnam, enjoying fall foliage on the way. All the staff were treated to a series of therapeutic delights in the form of massages, Reikki treatments, light and music therapy, and the chi machine. This was all following a staff appreciation meeting, and the gifts were greatly appreciated by all. Many thanks to our managers, Paul and Sherry.

Beechnut Residence

We are having a wonderful Holiday Season. Laughing and singing are a part of each day. We enjoyed ourselves at the Christmas Party. What a celebration!

We want to send Happy Birthday wishes to Peg, Doris, and a very special 40th to Doris Norman. Three beautiful women celebrating their lives.

Thank you Re-Focus for our Dream Grants. We will enjoy our vacations this year!

Cooke Drive Residence

We want to thank everyone at Re-Focus for the care and support that you gave to us when Herman passed away. It was a tribute to Herman to have so many people at his memorial service. He will be missed dearly.

Thanks to all the staff who cared for Herman for all his years at Cooke. You are a very kind, caring, and dedicated group of people. A special thanks to Danielle and Ozzie who were with him at the end. It was a great comfort to all of us to know you were both there.

We would like to welcome John Baillie to the Cooke Drive family. We hope you will be very happy in your new home. Thank you to Nikki, TJ, and Joyce for all the help in making the transition smooth.

Andover Street Residence

We would like to welcome John Sousa to our team. We now have a complete and wonderful team. Thank you, Russell, Deb, Cheryl, Kim, Jess, Leeza, Jimmy and John for all that you do. We have had lots of changes at Andover and everyone has handled them well. Eileen had her apartment remodeled. She has new paint on the walls, new rugs and new floors. Eileen and Pepe like the new change. Cheryl adopted a cat from the Warwick Animal Shelter. His name is Elliot. He is black and white and is very playful and affectionate. Ed is enjoying the cat just as much as Cheryl. We enjoyed having Nat, John and Heidi over for Thanksgiving. Eileen enjoyed the holiday with her sister and her "Julie, Julie, Julie."

Eileen did a wonderful job at the Christmas Party giving a short speech about Julie. Thank you, Marie, for all that you do. Even though you are so busy and you can't be at Andover all that much, you still put it all together and run the house.

Willow Street/Chestnut Hill

The weekly BINGO held at Willow Street on Tuesday afternoons from 2:30 - 4:30 is still going strong with a lot of incentive to win - prizes! We always need BINGO prizes. Please send your unwanted Christmas gifts or closet clean-outs to MaryAnn Grygiel at Re-Focus. We always have winners! Willow Street staff cooked a great roasted chicken with the fixins for a pre-Halloween staff and resident luncheon of which many people attended. A wonderful spread was prepared for Judy Wood's annual ISP -- Judy was pleased and grateful to see the turnout of people at her ISP and with its results. Willow Street held a Halloween Party - everyone was invited. It was a great turnout!

We enjoyed delicious luncheons made by the Chestnut Hill staff at Ann Marie Stigalt and Ron Brittain's ISP's and a triple-birthday bash. Both Ann Marie and Ron participated and communicated fully in their annual ISP's and felt comfortable in discussing their needs. Chestnut Hill celebrated the triple birthday bash for Ron Brittain, Chris Kavanagh and Donna Walton's birthdays with a great buffet and gifts! Also, birthday parties were held consecutively for Chris Vecchia, Phil DiDonato and for Fabiola Estera - Happy Birthday! A wonderful Thanksgiving dinner was made and enjoyed by staff and residents alike at Chestnut Hill with guests Charles Waters, Bernie Selby and Austin Thomas. Chris Vecchia and Denise Johnson joined the Re-Focus bus trip to New York City to shop on December 1. The bus stopped at Ground Zero for picture taking, drove by the Today Show station and into Manhattan. Mike Marseglia, William Stutts, Phil DiDonato and Joyce Landry had the opportunity to visit the Silver Screen Classics at the Showcase Cinemas to see "White Christmas." Also, both Chestnut Hill and Willow Street folks participated in the rehearsals of the Christmas Caroling Chorus that ultimately took place at the Re-Focus Annual Christmas Party.

School Street Residence

The four ladies are moved in and getting used to calling School Street home. They are adjusting well and look forward to each opportunity to grow as staff develop their rapport with them. Many staff are new to Re-Focus and are learning a lot. We are off to a good start thanks to those who are seasoned, but fresh ideas from all are welcomed.

All ladies received Dream Grants: Melissa is benefiting from her sun lamp treatments; Tiffani is enjoying her new TV, DVD and VCR; Crystal is sweating it out at the gym with her membership; Shelina is grooving with her CD player and will enjoy her zoo membership when weather permits. Thanks to all who contributed.

Bellevue Residence

Kathleen Murphy had surgery on November 29th at Miriam Hospital. After a short stay at St. Joseph's Hospital Rehab. Kitty is recovering pretty well at home, with the help of physical therapy.

Bellevue is going through a small face lift. Thanks to Chris and Julie for the work done.

The staff and directors of Bellevue want to extend our appreciation to Cooke Drive for helping with Kitty the night of the Christmas Party. We also want to say Happy Birthday to George Borgia and Diana Carroll, who had birthdays in November and to Maria Barros whose birthday is in January.

Mona's Program

Welcome Sandy Fonseca. We are happy to have you as a part of Re-Focus and our program. Theury, we will miss you in our program. Roberto, we are all wishing you our best in the New Year to come.

All of the folks would like to thank the Dream Grant Theme Team for all of the Dream Grants they have received in the past year. Re-Focus is a wonderful agency to be a part of. Everyone had a great time at the Christmas Party; congratulations to all the folks who have been with Re-Focus for 25 years, and to all the staff for their 10 years of dedicated service. A big congratulations to you, Julie.

Here are some pictures of Norma, Lisa and Mary on their cruise. They did lots of shopping, sightseeing and ate the best food. Florence and Mona enjoyed a fun filled day in New York City shopping and sightseeing. Nikki, you were a great tour guide.

Office

What skills have been implemented into the workplace because of the "FISH" and "Learning to Lead" programs?
Interview by Peg Marfeo

"The training program was very worthwhile. When working with a diverse group of people (folks & staff), a positive attitude

is important. "Fish" and the Leadership series reinforced the importance of a positive attitude. We not only hear the staff but also follow through on what is communicated to us. We then see a positive change in attitude in the workplace because they have been heard, validated, and their opinion is treated with respect. The "Fish" program has reinforced the idea that it is okay for the work environment to be a place to come to do our job with a sense of humor and a playful attitude and still be centered around the people we support." ~ Henrietta White-Holder, Residential Director

"It's important to work as a team to resolve issues and not to put responsibility of issue resolution totally on yourself. It's important to put responsibility on all those involved." ~ Marie Capobianco, Psychologist/Supportive Living Coordinator

"I've learned to laugh at myself more and to help others laugh more at work. I have learned to deal with conflict resolution in a more timely manner." ~ Heather Hoagland, Residential Director

Cumberland Street Residence

Well, another fine year has come to a wonderful and very much enjoyed ending. Cumberland Street has been blessed with wonderful clients and staff. We would like to wish everyone a wonderful and happiest New Year. Best wishes and good health to all.

We pray for a complete recovery for Claudia Moten. You were missed!

For your Information:

Many folks wanted to get videos and CD's. This is where I take the folks. It is very cheap.

MUSIC MAGICK

CD's, Videos and Cassettes

1806 Smith Street

North Providence, RI

Movies are \$3.00. CD's and DVD's are \$7.00-\$9.00. Evelyn Perez

Lisa Mejia

The past few months have been very busy. Ronny Grylls celebrated his 70th birthday. Thank you to everyone who came and gave him a gift and to all my wonderful staff. December 1st my program also enjoyed a great trip to New York. That also turned out wonderfully. Thank you to Re-Focus for the great Christmas Party. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed themselves at our program Christmas party. Thank you to all my staff and residents for all the presents and cards. You are all angels.

East Side Residence

We would like to welcome Anna home! It's nice to have you home. Thank you to everyone who has visited and supported Anna through the challenges life has brought to her. Thank you Gloria, Pat, and Linda for your patience and love through all the changes at East Side. Happy Birthday to Pat and Anna who have September birthdays and Gloria a December birthday. We would like to welcome Denise, Erica, Comfort, and Plascer to East Side. Linda, Glo, and Pat enjoyed a day trip to Block Island and also a vacation in Cape Cod. Pat celebrated her birthday in Cape Cod and at home. Linda and Gloria enjoyed the pumpkin spectacular at Roger Williams Park. Thank you, Parkside, for hosting your Annual Halloween Party. It's always a treat and a good time. Pat made a beautiful wreath for us at Cooke's annual wreath day. Thank you Mind, Body, & Spirit Theme Team. Linda, Gloria, and Pat enjoyed Music Day. Linda, Glo, and Pat also enjoyed being a part of the chorus. Gloria would like to do it again next year. Anna has enjoyed spending time with staff and Cheryl. She loves going out and going to the Dollar Store. She also enjoys getting visitors.

Mission Statement

Re-Focus, Inc. is a nonprofit human service agency which serves adults with differing physical and developmental needs. We are an organization of dedicated people offering opportunities for growth in a loving, trusting and challenging environment.

We value and encourage the enhancement of the whole person, each with unique talents and strengths. We also value the right of using these gifts in making informed life choices.

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