

New Beginnings

Volume 1

Issue 5

Bourne Avenue Residence

All the men have spent a great deal of their time enclosed during the past few months – as have so many of us. All are looking forward to the impending spring weather. We would like to welcome Jimmy Strother and Marissa Garlington to Bourne—an overdue welcome to Thelma Johnson and a huge welcome back to Bobby Sorrentino.

John Sidlik is approaching his one year anniversary of participating in Meals on Wheels. John has proven to be polite and helpful to the folks he delivers meals to on Friday. We are very proud of the commitment John has shown to this program—yeah, John!

Mona's Program

Welcome Kystal Zuleta. We are happy to have you as part of Re-Focus and our program. You have already made a big impression on the folks you work with. Lori Nelson, thank you for all that you did for Irene and her program. She will miss you dearly as will I. This winter has been a real drag. However, the folks continue to move about their daily routines with very few complaints.

Irene has recently been told by the building management where she lives that she had to give up her five birds. Although this was very difficult for Irene, she complied. Now all five birds have good homes, and Irene can now put all her love and energy into her dog, TuTu..

East Side Residence

Linda, Gloria and Pat enjoy going bowling and to the movies. They have also enjoyed the Valentine and St. Patrick's Diamond Club meetings. Gloria and Pat enjoyed a day trip to Foxwoods with MaryBeth and friends from Cooke. Thank you, Beechnut, for hosting your annual St. Patty's celebration. The East Side gals really enjoyed themselves. Thank you, Parkside, for letting East Side use your van; it helped Anna enjoy going out to eat at Greggs.

Happy Birthday, Newoky and Eva. Thank you for being a part of the East Side team.

Mary Beth's Movie Review

"Are We There Yet?" - Rated PG.

I saw the movie "Are We There Yet ?"— It's about two kids who play tricks and are mean to their babysitter. In the end they like him. It's so cute. Mary Beth.

Peg Marfeo

Thank you to everyone who supported the Dream Grant Program in 2004. Thanks to the generosity and support of so many people. Re-Focus was able to award 83 Dream Grants at the Christmas Party on December 13, 2004! Thanks especially to the Dream Makers for all of your hard work and dedication. Those on the Dream Makers Theme Team are Bobby Lima, Chris Kavanagh, Chris Vecchia, Christine Lafleur, Cornelius Tay, Doris Norman, John Sousa, Karin Osterman, Lisa Pimentel, Mary Barile, MaryAnn Grygiel, Peg Marfeo, Stella Sousa and Warren Green.

The Dream Makers are planning several events to raise money for Dream Grants in 2005.

- We will have our annual "Swing into Spring" Dinner Dance on April 8th at the West Valley Inn.
- Luncheon on the Bay Queen on July 30th from 12:00–4:00 pm.
- Re-Focus, Inc. Raffle at the agency picnic in August – lots of good prizes!
- Costume Party at the Santa Maria Hall in East Providence on October 28th. We will have prizes for many different categories.

We will send out flyers to let you know price and other information closer to the date of these events.

We will be creating a new Dream Grant brochure in the next few months. Could you please send in any pictures that you have now or will have as soon as people use their Dream Grants? Thanks for your help!

Astro Travels
The Devastation Weapon
Chapter One
By: Christopher Vecchia

Shock after shock. First, the distress call from the Huntington, an astroship of the same class as the Kursk, commanded by Ryan Hawkins, one of Ellis' oldest; a call badly garbled and cut off in the middle. The call seemed to have come from the vicinity of L-10, an old star with a sol system of seven moons. But when the Kursk arrived in the sol system, the Huntington was not there and neither was the sol system. The star had gone nova; it was as placid as it had always been. But of the moons there was nothing left but dust.

to be continued.....

Willow Street/Chestnut Hill Residences

The New Year started great when Michael Marseglia and William Stutts attended the Silver Screen Classic "Together Again" at the Showcase Cinema. Also, Michael and Philip DiDonato enjoyed a visit to the LaSalette Shrine for a last look at the Christmas displays. Denise Johnson and Judy Wood enjoyed MaryAnn's annual family Christmas gathering at the Country Buffet and a bread baking demonstration held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel by King Arthur Flour Company. Phil accompanied Re-Focus staff and residents to the Provider Index Rally at the State House that provides recognition to Direct Support Staff. Chris Vecchia and Phil attended the winter Auto Show at the Convention Center. Phil also attended the Pet Expo at the Convention Center. Mike Marseglia and William Stutts continue to enjoy dining out, movies, visits to neighborhood parks, malls and ice cream parlors. They get along well together and are a good team. Denise is happy that Princess braids her hair every couple of weeks. Good job, Princess!

Michael participated in and enjoyed his ISP with Terry Plante, Chestnut Hill and Willow Street residents and staff. Michael is doing well and enjoyed the esteem of the people that were there who work and live with him. An ISP was presented for Phil and Chris with a wonderful chicken dinner. Phil and Chris' ISPs went very well. They are very happy with their progress and have set some goals for the New Year.

William celebrated his birthday with the Chestnut Hill and Willow Street folks and staff. He enjoyed the crowd and them cheering him on. Judy Wood was very excited and pleased to take part with other Re-Focus staff to help transport boxes of boots to be donated by the Rhode Island Donation Exchange Program. She assisted Lisa Mejia and her residents and Mayor David Cicilline.

Ann Marie Stigalt has been working at the Fogarty/Bucklin worksite for several months now and has expressed her enjoyment at being there. She helps out mornings by making coffee and afternoons with bench work; plus Ann Marie likes the paychecks!

In February, Chris Vecchia had a huge Saturday feast for his family at the Willow Street community room. Aunts, uncles, cousins and his sister enjoyed sausage lasagna, tossed garden salad, soda, coffee, cookies and ice cream. Twenty-three relatives showed up and all had a wonderful afternoon. Chris paid for everything himself and helped staff prepare all the goodies. Lots of photos were taken by Ann DiBitetto. So now Chris has a permanent record of the day.

Parkside Residence—by Tanya Boiano

The Parksiders would like to welcome to the team Steve Dumont and Evelyn Nieves. We are happy to have you. We would then like to say Happy Birthday to Carmella, Sandy and Nancy.

Sandy would like everyone to know she has cashed in her Dream Grant for a brand new bed and sheets. She loves her new bed and looks forward to bed time. Charly has started a new job at the Food Bank. She is doing well and enjoys going to work there. Now Charly has a total of three jobs! Work it, Charly!

Phil has been enjoying himself at Bingo on Tuesdays, winning quite a few prizes. He's looking forward to the Spring start-up of the Classic Auto Shows. If any resident has similar Auto Show interests, please contact MaryAnn Grygiel at Re-Focus. We'll see if we can arrange transportation for them with Phil.

Ron Brittain cooked many delicious meals at Chestnut Hill. He excels at veggie dishes and roasted meat. Ron is also kind and affectionate to the two Chestnut Hill cats, J.J. and Beautiful.

Happy January Birthdays to Lisa Gonsalves, Denise Johnson and Chris Johnson! Happy February Birthday to William Stutts! Happy March Birthday to Theary Doeur! Welcome and glad to have you back, Maria Caban, from your winter illness! Many best wishes to Laurie Hayes, Cornelius Tay and Theary Doeur! Good luck taking hours with other folks in the agency. Thank you, Nicole Harris, for picking up overnight hours!

We would also like to give a sincere thank you to everyone for their efforts in reestablishing Garden City. Everyone is playing a part, whether you are filling in shifts there, managing the home, filling in shifts at your program so others can be at Garden City, writing programs, donating things to the house and so on. The whole agency has come together to make this happen. To see everyone working together is a beautiful thing. We are truly fulfilling our Mission Statement. Again, thank you EVERYONE FOR EVERYTHING!

Cooke Drive Residence

We have been very busy shoveling this quarter. Hopefully, we are done for the year. John Baillie has adjusted well to his move and has been quite busy. He is making friends with the firemen at Messer Street station in Providence. They are very good to John.

Mary and Audrey have been busy with art and literacy classes. Ken continues with his recycling. Patty helps keep our spirits high and has been active in the community. Lorraine is doing well and likes to serenade us each day.

Then there is Molly who keeps everyone on their toes and wants to be a part of everything. The holidays were fun.

We had a great "early" May Breakfast with East Side and Lorraine's brother, Edgar. Everyone, but especially Anna, had a great time. We also want to welcome Monica to our program. We are very happy to have you aboard.

School Street Residence

The young women at School Street are all settled in. It has been a busy six months. We began February with the ladies' PSPs which many people turned out for and made it a great success. Just to name a few things that are keeping these ladies active: going to the circus and Pet Expo, which Melissa enjoyed. Tiffany helped with a Bridal Show and attended a basketball game. Shelina strutted her stuff at a fashion show held at Fashion Bug. All the ladies attended the Valentine's Day Dance. We would like to welcome our newest lady, Sharia, and also our new team member, Donna. We hope the two of you find School Street as great a place as the rest of us. We are all waiting to see what is in store for the next couple of months.

Cumberland Residence

Hello, Re-Focus Family! We are sitting in front of our sun box, in our cozy little home on a very cold and dismal day hoping and praying that Spring will touch us soon. We look forward to seeing you all in our travels, visiting near and far and always thinking of the warmth that comes with your friendship. Hang in there! Think Spring! From "the Cumberland Street gang".

Editorial Directors	Colleen Casey/Mary Anderson
Production Manager	Ann DiBitetto
Columnists	Jeff Gurskey, Jeannette DiBasco, Chris Vecchia, Mary Beth Plante
Newsletter Board of Advisors	Christine Kavanagh, RSM/Julie Derosier
Copy Editor	Patricia Farley

Published four times per year (quarterly) by the non-profit agency, Re-Focus, Inc.
Administrative offices located at 1228 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02909

Mission Statement

Re-Focus, Inc. is a non-profit 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.