

# New Beginnings

Volume 2

August 2005

Issue 2

## Olney Arnold Residence 20th Year Anniversary

Prior to sunset in the summer of June 24, 1985, Olney Arnold was opened as a group home to six wonderful men and women. Some of the original residents were: Kenard Lambert, John Iasimone and Norman Braley. Sue Lefebvre and Sandra Bellino joined the crew in 1986, while Joseph Lancellotta came in 1993. The home was full of love and compassion for the folks, especially during their transition period from Ladd School. They adjusted well to a home environment, though there were some difficult days. All of the folks have grown over the years. Ken is more fun to be with and loves to socialize a lot. A day does not go by without Ken talking about his friend, Bill Greene. John is more familiar with his environment, and Norman continues to attend church every Sunday while Sue does her Day Program five days a week. Sandra is more approachable but loves to have her space. Joe continues to enjoy his coffee and the company of his family.

Over the past 20 years, Olney Arnold has come a long way. The folks here adjusted well to their home and all of the staff that have worked with them throughout these years. Staff continue to involve residents in community activities including all Re-Focus events. An example would be May Breakfast, Spring Dance, Wellness Day, Bay Queen, New York City trip, just to name a few. Our folks greatly benefited from the Dream Grants that they have received at the Christmas Party.

Our folks in the past eight years have been to the following places: Cape Cod, Boston, Atlantic City, Cape May, Hershey, Martha's Vineyard and Six Flags. They have taken day trips to Mystic Aquarium and Foxwoods. At Foxwoods, they have seen concerts Al Greene, Hall & Oates, Huey Lewis and the News, and Stars on Ice with Aretha Franklin.

Welcome, Allen Padmore as part of our crew. We wish a speedy recovery to Jimmy Brooks and Modesola Oladosu. Alex Porte, welcome back from your sick leave. Congratulations, Adebola Adelaiye on her marriage. We wish you and your husband the best. Olney Arnold's 4th Annual International Luncheon will be held on July 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come and enjoy diversity within Re-Focus. There will be music, food, dancing, drumming and lots of fun. Do not miss it!

Congratulations to Kathy Catalano who was one of the finest direct support staff hired at Olney Arnold in June 1985. Congratulations to Marie Capobianco who was one of the finest managers at Olney Arnold.

Happy 20th Anniversary to our wonderful residents and staff at Olney Arnold:

Sandra Bellino

Norma Braley

John Iasimone

Kenard Lambert

Joseph Lancellotta

Suzanne Lefebvre

Adebola Adelaiye

Joyce Akinkuowo

Jimmy Brooks

Miatta Boima

John Catalano

Alexander Porte

Joel Cassell

Ronke Fakiyesi

Modesola Oladosu

Allen Padmore

Sata C. Wonmei

Edifice Bemah, RN

From: Ellen Miller Tay and Karin Osterman

## Astro Travels Devastation Weapon

### Chapter One

By Christopher Vecchia

Lt. Hoskin tried to project the line of the distress call. The line led through four more former sol systems – all now nothing but dust . . . No, not quite: the two inner moons of the fifth sol system appeared to be still intact – and from somewhere near where the third moon should have been, they heard once more the weak bouy of the Huntington, no longer signaling distress, but black disaster. The bouy was automatic; no voice came from him despite repeated calls. And when they found him, the view window showed that two large neat holes, neat as laser cuts, had been drilled through his quanta mark-drives capsules. Ellis called an alert gray at once, though there was no sign of a third ship in the area, except for some radio interference which might easily be sunspots. Green reported that all primary and ancillary energy plants aboard the Huntington were dead, but the batteries were operative at a low level. His bio support systems were operative, too, also at a very low level, except for the bridge area, which – as the view window showed – was badly damaged and uninhabitable. “We’ll board,” Ellis said. “The Huntington packed as much firepower as we do; I want to know what could cut an astroship up like that. And there may be a few survivors. McCauley, grab your medic kit. Green, select a damage control team and come with us.” . . . To be continued

### Getting to Know You

My name is Edward Hampson and I have been with Re-Focus for almost four years. I like to go out to the movies, concerts and restaurants. I am very independent and like to go for long walks. I also like going to the library and get on the computer to look for information. I am 43 years old ,and I live at Andover Street.

### Deb Toolin’s Program

**Movie Day** has been going on for several months now and has been going well. Please check out the new flyers each month and come join us for lunch and a movie.

Jackie and Jeanette bought their new dishwasher with their Dream Grants and are very happy with it. Jackie made sure before the men left how it worked. She was so good with the questions. Elizabeth just got a big screen TV for her and her kids with her Dream Grant and money she saved. It is really awesome. Her kids love it.

### East Side Residence

Linda, Gloria and Pat recently enjoyed a vacation in Cape Cod. Despite the rain, they enjoyed a lovely dinner at Hearth & Kettle for Linda’s Birthday. They enjoyed picking out souvenirs. It was a great vacation! When we returned, we had a Birthday party for Linda with friends from Re-Focus. We would like to welcome Santos to East Side. We hope she will be moving in sometime in July. She is a beautiful young lady, and we are looking forward to this experience. Happy Birthday, Denise and Diane.

Congratulations, Gloria for the medals you received at the Special Olympics. You are a true champion, and we are very proud of you.

### Parkside Residence

Parkside welcomes Tatiana and Deborah as new staff. We miss Paul as he has taken on his new duties at Garden City residence. We were glad to have Adelaide back after an extended illness. The garden has been planted and Charly’s new cat “Striper” has made his home at Parkside and fulfilled a long-time wish of Charly’s. She says, “I hope I have him for my whole life. He’s soft and comfortable and very lovable!”

Sandy and Charly again had a great time at Special Olympics, bringing back ribbons and medals and having spent good times with old and new friends. Sandy was also very happy to have gone out to lunch with Chris and her friend, David. All the Parkside ladies went to Music Day and loved it, especially Janice. Wellness Day at Mercy Lodge was another very special event. Kathy enjoyed her massage. Linda had her nails done, and foot massages were enjoyed by several ladies. Thank you, Mind, Body, Spirit Theme Team.

### Cooke Drive Residence

We have been very busy this Spring getting the yard ready, spring cleaning, and planning and cooking for the May Breakfast. The breakfast was a big success. We had a great turnout. Thanks to everyone who came and helped support us. A special thanks to all the staff who worked so hard to pull everything together.

The folks have been busy with lots of community excursions. We have started a new "fish" board and we select two staff as "fish of the month". We celebrate these two fish by doing a good deed for them during the month.

### Lisa's Program

This has been a very busy Spring! I feel like we have done it all. Here is some of what we have enjoyed doing: Movie days, bowling, Stars on Ice, State House Rally for Provider Index, Fenway Park, Curves, WWE, Harlem Globe Trotters and numerous other activities (too many to list). We also all volunteer for the Rhode Island Donation Exchange Program where we met the Mayor or Providence. Some of us kept calling him Mr. President! Ha, ha, ha!

Congratulations to Elvin Rios and Helen Briggs. They both received awards for their volunteer work at the Rhode Island DEP. They were honored at the Rhode Island DEP yearly fundraiser on April 21. It was a great night. Their hard work has paid off. They both have paying positions at the RI DEP now. Then in June, the RI DEP had a Cookout of Appreciation for all of their volunteers. They gave Re-Focus, Inc. a Certificate of Appreciation for our whole group: Sheila Simone, Francisca Ramos, Lori Nelson, Laurie Hayes, Chantee Botelho and Lisa Mejia all received individual Certificates of Appreciation. Great job everyone! Keep up the great work.

### Andover Street Residence

Welcome, Princess, to Andover Street! Thank you, Russell, Jess, Deb, Leeza, John, Jimmy and Cheryl for all you do for the folks at Andover. Cheryl and her cat, Boots, have been enjoying each other's company. Ed started a new job at Kohl's, and he really enjoys his work. Eileen has retired from the workshop. She had a retirement party that she enjoyed very much. All is going well at Andover. Ed and Cheryl have been doing a great job with having an overnight guest for the past few months.

[Diane Botham says: "Thank you, Marie for being a wonderful supervisor! I am really going to miss you as well as Ed, Cheryl and Eileen. I will miss all the staff, too. Thank you to everyone at Re-Focus for making the past eight years a wonderful experience. I will miss everyone. Chris and Julie, thank you for everything! "]

### Mona's Program

All of the folks enjoyed the Spring Dance. The music was great, the food was delicious and the prizes were awesome. Donald was a big winner, taking home 4 to 5 baskets. Way to go, Donald! The conference theme: "Let's go Fishing" was a big success and was organized well. The breakout sessions were fun and informational. To all the staff, thank you for the great job you did helping Bruce with his home. Bernard is also doing well after his surgery.

Florence, Nat, Mona and Nikki had a fun time in Boston. Charles enjoyed his vacation in Virginia and loved spending time with his grandmother. Bruce is enjoying the hot days at home with his air conditioning. Norma and Sandy have been attending church at the Calvary Baptist Church. Norma has completed classes as a new member and was recognized and welcomed as a new member. Her picture was taken.



### Sampson Avenue Residence

Mario enjoys soaking up the sun during this season. He continues to enjoy his visits from neighborhood friends who will come over periodically to chat with him. Jack has been extremely busy taking care of his home, planting seeds and flowers. Dwight is working on his bike, tuning it up so he can enjoy some bicycling this summer. Bill is still looking for a wife – any takers? Sorry, Claudia; he said he divorced you!

Dwight is very happy to have received a Dream Grant for Disney World and a cruise to the Bahamas. All the men are looking forward to their mini-vacation to Maine. Staff and residents have been very busy creatively making many things to sell to help fundraise for vacations.

### Bourne Avenue Residence

The young men at Bourne Avenue are doing fine and having more fun in the community, thanks to the good weather. John Sidlik is especially doing a great job delivering Meals on Wheels in East Providence every Friday. He is very polite to the people he serves and looks forward to this voluntary work every week. As for Brian Moran, he continues to attend art classes on Tuesdays, painting beautiful stuff.

On a rather sad note, our Residential Manager, Keri, had an operation in mid-May and is still recuperating at home. We all (staff and residents) wish her a speedy recovery. We miss you, Keri, and look forward to seeing you back to work soon.

Michael Motta started his sailing on June 1 and looks forward to going to Newport every Wednesday. Residents from other homes sometimes join him, and he loves to have them on his sailing boat. Now that the weather is good, Michael also goes horseback riding at Greenlock in Massachusetts on Thursdays. In another development, Michael is scheduled to leave on Friday, June 24, 2005 for a week-long vacation in Washington, DC. Have fun, Michael, and bring some goodies for us.

Bourne Avenue had its annual cookout on Friday, July 1, and it was a great success. Brian was able to celebrate his birthday at the cookout!

### Aaron Briggs Residence

Joe has been doing many new things. When we go shopping, he enjoys unloading the cart by himself, giving cashiers his Stop & Shop card, and now he even counts out his money. He is a pure pleasure to be around.

Jeanne and Darlene are new members of the theme team, Mission Fish. Jeanne enjoyed visiting over at Cumberland Street for this meeting, and lunch was the biggest hit in her book. We both cannot wait until the next meeting. Good luck to everyone with the contest.

Spring was busy. Joe has been pounding the pavement looking for work. Angela has been doing Walk Away the Pounds. Steve has been doing some yard work, and Terry is busy finding a happy space in his life.

Jeanne and Barbara started Bingo at Aaron Briggs every Monday at 12:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome and it is free. We always have great prizes and love to see all our friends from Re-Focus.

### Beechnut Residence

Beechnut has been very busy and having a lot of fun! It seems that we are having parties and celebrations every few weeks! We would like to wish Happy Birthdays to Joan Lyons, Rita Cesino, Jessica Rodriguez, Maria Pimentel, Gary LeGros and Bounsou. Peg, Doris, Joan and Rita have also had their new PSP meetings.

In March, Joan and Doris spent a week in Florida. They visited Sea World and Universal Studios. Peggy and Doris recently starred in a film about themselves entitled: "That's What Friends Are For". Gary and Gino are planning a trip to New Hampshire soon.

Beechnut staff enjoyed a fun day at Roger Williams Park for a team building scavenger hunt. We all had a great time. The winners were awarded a FISH book!

### Joyce Rainey

Congratulations to Carrie DiVall, the new Coordinator at Aaron Briggs. Thank you to Barbara, Chrissy, Darlene, Austin and Warren for all your help to Carrie through the transitioning and on AB becoming a 24-hour a day program. Welcome, all new staff, to the Aaron Briggs support team.

Steve enjoyed his day at Foxwoods with Julie and Jeff. Joyce was disappointed she was unable to make the trip this time. Steve is planning the next trip for August.

## School Street Residence

All the ladies at School Street are enjoying the great weather. They are all out and about every night pursuing different interests and making new friends. Many of the ladies at School Street have become involved in several Re-Focus-sponsored groups and activities. Melissa has begun dance classes with VSA of Rhode Island. She really looks forward to them and has lots of fun. Tiffany has music classes which she enjoys greatly. She really puts her heart and soul into it, and this is a great channel for her energy. Melissa and Tiffany competed in the Special Olympics in June, with both ladies receiving medals. Shelina has been attending art classes at RISD and VSA of Rhode Island. It is an excellent way for her to express her creativity. She will also be volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul's soup kitchen on Thursdays. Sharia has been utilizing the computer at the Options Day Program. But mostly she enjoys spending time out at ball games. She has taken in a Paw Sox game and a Bruins game. She is looking forward to a summer full of sports! Congratulations to Melissa who will be graduating from Bradley in June. We are all very proud of her!

Thanks to Cooke Drive for hosting the May Breakfast. It was our first but surely not our last. We had a great time!

## Nikki's Program

A warm welcome to Jeff Gurskey on his move into Cambridge Street. He is enjoying the company of his new roommate.

Also, a welcome to Angel and Rayshelle to Nikki's program.

'Great job' to Nat Partridge for losing 10 pounds. The staff are also doing a great job with encouraging Nat towards better choices. Keep up the fine work!

Nat enjoyed his day trip to the Boston Aquarium with Nikki, Florence and Mona. Nat liked taking the train and enjoyed the scenery. Everyone checked out Faneuil Hall and had a nice lunch there.

Jeff got an extra treat this season by getting to see the playoff games by the Bruins. He shared the opportunity with Angel from Cambridge Street. He also went to see Sting with Kim at the Dunkin Donuts Center. Jeff also went to PPAC to see Peter Pan and Smokey Joe's Café, just to name a few.

Mary Sebastian and Connie Plante got to go to Foxwoods for the day with Nikki and Roz. They played the slot machines with little success, but did not seem to mind. To make up for their loss, they indulged in a scrumptious lunch at the buffet.

A special congratulations to Connie on starting her new job at TTP. Keep up the good work, Connie.

Thanks to the Dream Grant, Pa was able to purchase tickets from PPAC where she will get to see the Lion King and a number of other shows.

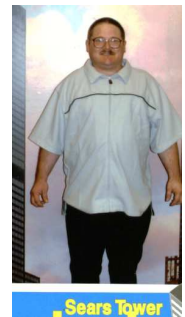
A big thank you to the Dream Grant on behalf of Gerry James.

Gerry and Cornelius just returned from Chicago to see the Sears Towers and other skyscrapers which Chicago is famous for. The Sears Towers is the tallest building in the USA, 110 floors with the observatory on the 103rd floor. He was so excited, he would not eat the whole morning fearing he might throw up from the speed of the elevators or the scene from above. Gerry also went on a boat ride on Lake Michigan, which gave him a beautiful view of the skyline of Chicago. As usual, no outing would be complete for Gerry without a visit to the video shops where he got his "Chicago copies of his favorite movie 'Rocky.'"

Heidi got to share time with her friends at the Spring Dance. You looked great, Heidi!

Pam has enjoyed participating in the Literacy Program. Keep up the good work.

Nikki thanks all her staff for supporting the program during her absence. A special thanks to T.J. for covering during that time period.



## Willow Street/Chestnut Hill Residences

William Stutts most recently enjoyed Silver Screen Classics at the Showcase Cinema: *Pennies from Heaven* with Bing Crosby and *Pin Up Girl* with Betty Grable where Michael Marseglia joined him. Also both men enjoyed a Sunday afternoon at the Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Judy Wood and Denise Johnson saw the movies *Out of Africa* and *A Beautiful Mind* at the Barrington Public Library. Judy and Denise enjoyed a free buffet at a local Mexican restaurant on Atwells Avenue. The restaurant was celebrating its five-year anniversary and had invited the public. "The food was good and hot!" says Judy. The girls also enjoyed a festive presentation at the Lifespan Health Fair. Ron Brittain and AnnMarie Stigalt joined Judy and Denise for an evening of "Fitness for Mind & Body," which was a presentation at the Ray Conference Center at Butler Hospital.

Denise, Chris Vecchia and Phil DiDonato had a surprise Birthday party for Angel Madera, the Manager at Willow Street. Happy Birthday, Angel! Thank you to Donna Walton who cooked up a barbeque for the Willow Street and Chestnut Hill folks just to bring all the residents and staff together. We also celebrated Michael's birthday with his aunts and brother. Happy Birthday, Michael! Mike also invited Phil to his brother Vinny's house for a macaroni dinner! A staff potluck luncheon in May took place where we also celebrated Evelyn Perez and Nicole Harris' birthdays. Happy Birthday, Evelyn and Nicole! Barbara Fenton also paid her last visit to Chestnut Hill to say "Goodbye" and to celebrate Princess Metuge and Christine Lafleur's birthdays. Happy Birthday Princess and Christine!

Princess has accepted the position as Assistant Residential Director at Andover. Chestnut Hill will miss Princess greatly, but we would like to send her the best. Congratulations, Princess! William Stutts had his PSP luncheon with Chestnut Hill and Willow Street folks and Marcia Montanaro. William will continue to receive quality support services from Re-Focus and direct support staff.

Recently, Phil, Chris and Warren Greene took a vacation to Tucson, Arizona. Phil visited his sister and her family. The men took in all the local sights and happenings! Phil and Chris especially enjoyed Tombstone, Arizona and the Air & Space Museum. Judy Wood and Denise enjoyed a vacation with Ann DiBitetto in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and visited the Amish Country, took buggy and railroad train rides, visited Hershey Park, the state park and museum, local shops, farmers markets and restaurants. What a great time! Florence Wilson and David LaPlante joined Ann Marie and Ron on a vacation trip to the Maine vacation home with Evelyn Perez and Ann DiBitetto! They enjoyed swimming in the lake, sightseeing of mountains and streams, shopping and relaxation. They saw moose and foxes on the side of the road. The folks had a blast with other residents from Re-Focus, Inc.

The Chestnut Hill folks, Denise and Phil, enjoyed a festive morning at the May Breakfast at Cooke Drive. What a wonderful time! Easter day brought Ron's mom and dad and Ann Marie's brother over for a wonderful spread made by Ron. Ron continues to intrigue us with his original dishes that he loves to share with housemates and staff. He enjoys entertaining his family and visiting with his family regularly. Chris, Phil, Judy and Denise continue to enjoy regular lunches and outings with MaryAnn.

Ann Marie participated and won first place and a medal at the annual Special Olympics bowling competition at URI. Congratulations, Ann Marie! Ann Marie continues to go to workshop and community based work. She is integrating well into the community and with her job duties. She often takes local transportation when she needs to go somewhere. Go, Ann Marie! Ann Marie's pet bird had a baby cockatiel and Ann Marie provided loving care to it. Chris Vecchia adopted a beautiful, pure black lady cat named Midnight from Diane Botham of Andover Residence. Chris and the cat bonded immediately, and he is spoiling her rotten!

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### 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.