



# Magnolia Times

A Quarterly Newsletter from Magnolia Clubhouse, Inc.

Summer 2004

## Magnolia Clubhouse, Inc.

### Join in the Celebration

#### At Our Street Party!!

By Mary-Kay Moore, Jerome  
Brigham

We have been busy planning our first street party celebration. We wanted to celebrate our independence with the community and delayed the celebration until August in order to include all the students returning to our



community for Fall semester at CASE, the Cleveland Institute of Art, and the Cleveland Institute of Music. With all the sorority and fraternity houses and other student housing in our neighborhood we are hoping our new resale shop and art gallery **Bloomin'** will be just what the students need!! We've had great support from University Circle organizations, UCI, and the office of Councilman Kevin Conwell, and will be blocking off the street in front of our two houses. With reggae, rock and jazz bands performing, and food vendors selling wonderful summer fare, we look forward to an evening of celebration!! We hope this celebration helps the community see who we are, what we do, how we serve the community, and we hope the community will come and support us, buying items, volunteering and offering monetary support.

# Clubhouse Happenings

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## ***Celebrating our New Identity***

By Claudia Kowalski

Everyone knows July 4<sup>th</sup> is our nation's birthday, but this past July 2<sup>nd</sup> we celebrated Magnolia Clubhouse's Independence Day. We had an open house to honor our rebirth and to celebrate the grand opening of **Bloomin'**, our new resale shop and Art Gallery.

We had beautiful weather so going between the main building and the shop was easy, and we were able to take some of the festivities out doors. Our many guests were in high spirits and there was a really positive response to **Bloomin'**. We had a video playing that documented the renovations that we did for the shop, taking out walls and refinishing floors, etc., that spanned over three months this spring, ending with our painting the mural on the 11027 building. Our own video lab: Side-by-Side Productions, made the video.



We've been working to become an independent entity, free standing and separate from Bridgeway, for several years and it was wonderful to finally reach our goal. We look forward to the responsibility of running our own clubhouse



We were extremely lucky to get a lot of support from Ralph Fee and Bridgeway, Inc. To show our appreciation for Ralph's support, we have placed a garden bench with his name on it in the front yard of Magnolia Clubhouse. We also presented him with his favorite type of polo shirt with "Magnolia Clubhouse" embroidered on it. It was extra-special because our separation coincided with his retirement.

We gave tours as usual, but this was not just an open house, it was a party, a birthday party, with food and fun and balloons. We celebrated with our board, friends, family, neighbors and other supporters. Now we stand on our own two feet, side by side, members and staff, and take our first steps. Thank you all for your support and come and continue to celebrate with us!

# Clubhouse Happenings

## Growing *Bloomin'*

By Vesta Rae, Chuck Huth, Dre Jolly, Phil Giersosky

As soon as the snow had stopped flying this spring the members and staff of Magnolia Clubhouse were flying into renovations of 11027 Magnolia Drive: growing *Bloomin'*.



We started with refinishing a wood floor and working with the volunteers from the Junior League of Cleveland to

paint the first room. After we painted the walls peachy pink it became the Ladies Department. Next we dove into a more



complex effort tearing down walls that had been put up to make the rooms smaller. This involved moving electrical wiring, patching many

holes in the walls and ceiling and also refinishing the floor. This became the Men's Department after painting the walls aqua blue. It was now time to move on to the old reception area. We tore out walls, doorways, built in shelving areas and again moved electrical and other wiring that was



put into place to make offices. We also had another floor to refinish. Dre said, "***It was***

***hard work scraping the floor, but with all the help we had it seemed easier to do and was fun.***" Vesta and Chuck joked about our new exercise program: ***the Bloomin' renovations workout.*** This was

better than a gym workout, with everyone helping, getting fit and losing weight, as



well as increasing stamina. We were working off the great lunches at Magnolia Clubhouse. We finished off this room by painting it a misty green, and it became the checkout

area and a large display room. Next we got the enclosed porch ready to become our garden room with plant lights and shelves. Phil had a great time being a helper, moving paint tarps and vacuuming the floors as we went. "***I kept busy and***

***learned some new things! It was work but it was fun.***"



We also painted two bathrooms and set up another one as a changing area for customers to try

on articles of clothing. We finished the inside by setting up the main entrance area as an art gallery with track lighting and a system to hang and display artwork.



Tony, from housekeeping at Bridgeway, helped by striping and rewaxing the

entrance area floor and bathrooms. Darlene and Frank, with the help of many other members, finished the project off by completing a mural on the out side of the building. We made rolling clothes hanging racks and started to arrange items, getting ready for our opening. Side by Side, members, staff and community volunteers: we grew ***Bloomin'***.



# Clubhouse Happenings

## **Bloomin'** OPENS

*By Business Unit*

The grand opening of our new resale shop **Bloomin'** took place at our Open House on July 2nd. The many people who came were very impressed with the beautiful rooms and the work that went into



refinishing and decorating. They also were impressed with the merchandise we have for sale. Since then, we have had numerous donations from the community. Members have purchased many useful items, including clothing suitable for work. We have worked hard to get the word out - members have canvassed the neighborhood and CASE passing out and posting flyers. We are starting to see an increase in foot traffic, as our sales are increasing.

The hall way is filled with beautiful artwork produced by Clubhouse members, and several pieces have already been sold.



We are now working hard to plan and publicize our Street Party on Friday August 27<sup>th</sup>, from 3pm to 8pm. We are hoping for a smash event, bringing more people into the Clubhouse to see what we do, and to shop at **Bloomin'**.

We have had the help of three great volunteers: Barbara Mae, Ginny Helstern, and Gene Pierre. They have painted, organized, hung up clothes, framed artwork and taken photographs for this issue. They have been a welcome addition to the Clubhouse. We want to also thank those who have contributed items to **Bloomin'**. We will continue to need donations of furniture, household items, jewelry, and clothing in good condition. We can pick-up large donations. Give us a call to make arrangements. And come to shop **Bloomin'** the deals are great, and you are supporting our Clubhouse!

# Clubhouse Happenings

## Director's Corner

Lori D'Angelo, Ph.D



Celebrate!!

We are extremely proud of the work of everyone connected with **Magnolia Clubhouse, INC.!!!** There were days when it seemed the time to celebrate would never come, but here we are and we hope all of you can share in our happiness.

We will be working hard at fund raising to offset the reductions in funding we have experienced and any suggestions are welcome. We will also be in a capital campaign to raise the funds needed (\$ 150,000) to buy the house next door 11027 Magnolia, where we have our NEW RESALE SHOP AND ART GALLERY – **Bloomin'**, and where we hope to expand the Clubhouse.

These challenges are not new, as funding today is not enough to meet the needs of our work, but the clubhouse is ready to move forward, full speed ahead – steady as she goes. Please join us!!!

## Recovery Celebration

Chris Boja, Jamie Dykes, Willie Johnson

On Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004, a group from the Clubhouse went to Tallmadge, Ohio for



the Recovery Celebration. There were many guest speakers who talked about recovery from mental illness and a skit performed by a group from Canton. Awards

were given out to Mental Health

Consumers and professionals, and we were proud to have our own Willie Johnson Recognized for his work with Advocacy. There were a lot of booths with different kinds of information about mental health programs scattered throughout the communities and region. Outside, music was provided by a DJ, to go along with the good food being served.

The keynote speaker, Gloria Walker, said that we have to believe that we can do things. She said, "**We've got to convince others that treatment works! Recovery is real! Recovery means moving forward. Recovery is now accepted! Let's celebrate recovery.**"

The other keynote speaker, Amy Spindel, gave this advice: "**When you're having a bad day, remember everything is a learning experience.**"

The "Celebration Recovery" event was organized by the Adult Recovery Network, which is a new statewide initiative, headed by Dr. Fred Frese, dedicated to networking, resource sharing, education, technical assistance and mutual support of programs supporting Recovery. We are very pleased



that Lori was asked to be a member of their Advisory Board.

# Clubhouse Happenings

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## ***BUSINESS UNIT***

We are having an exciting time doing our clubhouse finances. Through everyone's help we are learning a lot: managing our bank account, making deposits, cashing checks, paying bills, entering payroll, monitoring cash flow, budget and posting entries in QuickBooks. We are reviewing our vendor list and are interested in working with vendors who are empathetic to our Clubhouse cause. We have negotiated reductions in many of our bills. We have several members who are learning to do Excel spreadsheets.

Another new important responsibility for our unit is running **Bloomin'**. A number of members have taken great interest in running the shop, increasing the days and time they spend at the Clubhouse.

We are increasing membership at this time, with a focus on reaching out to younger people. Our membership stands at 163. We are planning to make presentations at consumer operated services and mental health agencies. Our enrollment process is more streamlined than previously and we are making sure that everyone who wants to be registered to vote has that opportunity at enrollment.

## ***CLERICAL UNIT***

Our unit has worked on all the publicity for the upcoming street party. We are also preparing for September's art show at the Mental Health Board. Side by Side Productions, our video lab, made a one-hour tribute to Ralph Fee including final Board meeting tributes and various Bridgeway send-off events. Our next video project will be for a Mental Health Board presentation in September. We will also be focusing on surveys and outcome reports in the coming weeks.

## ***HOSPITALITY UNIT***

It's been a busy Spring and Summer on hospitality unit. We are now catering the Mental Health Board brown bag lunches and we prepared the consumer appreciation picnic in June at Lakewood park. Our Open House, July 2, was a huge success. We had over 100 people celebrating our independence with us and we managed to feed them all!

Murphy's Law reigned true; very close to July 2<sup>nd</sup> we had a very bad sewer backup and flooded basement, our van broke down, as did a refrigerator, freezer, and garbage disposal. As the sewer was repaired, we had limited access to our driveway, parking lot and basement. The basement cleanup was very extensive and we lost about \$5,000 in food and other things. We have replaced the garbage disposal and fixed one refrigerator. The van repair costs are still being determined and the remaining freezer will cost over \$1,500 to repair. Lori is working to obtain funding so we can meet these kinds of needs, and **donations are welcome!!!**

# Our Community

## Employment News

TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENTS		
COMPANY	POSITION	MEMBER
American Copier Solutions	Custodial and Shipping	Alan Keller
Jennings Place	Dining Room Server	Lou Vincent John Blount
Sight Center of Cleveland	Kitchen Assistant	David Edwards Michael Clark
Zagara's Food Center	Custodial	Henry Deadwiler Bob Apel
Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board	Clerical	Denise Fulks
Geauga Lake	Park Hosts	Dan Freeborn Jeff Malloy, Bernard Thomas, Cindy Cross, Dan Clemons, Ernest Dean, John Vouk
Starbuck's Cedar Fairmount	Food Service	Mary Kay Moore
Starbuck's Key Tower	Food Service	Syhee Mitchell
Bridgeway, Inc.	Receptionist/Clerical	Open

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nami Walk 2004

*Mary Kay Moore*

The NAMI Walk was on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004. Five people from the clubhouse participated.

The day was beautiful and about 900 people came in support of NAMI. I wrote a letter to all of my friends and relatives and was able to raise an amazing \$1,730 for a very good cause.

ON June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004 Lori, Shari and I were invited to Windows on the River for an appreciation awards ceremony where I won 3<sup>rd</sup> place for raising the most money out of all the participants. It was very exciting and they had some good food to eat. Next year I hope that more people from the clubhouse will get involved in this worthwhile cause.

# Looking Ahead

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🚩 August 27

*Street party*

🚩 September

*Work on installing our pond & Landscaping  
& additional touchup painting of clubhouse &  
**Bloomin'***

🚩 November

*ICCD Certification Visit*

## **Special thanks to:**

Susan McKenzie  
Eugenia Cash  
Mrs. Kennedy  
Mrs Gierosky  
Dr. English  
Jean Stedfeld  
Marilyn Kratky  
Junior League  
Barbara Rudolph  
Jah Messenger  
Anna Biebel  
Barbara Mae

Woodruff Foundation  
Now Hiring Dancers  
Bristol-Meyers Squibb  
Zara Leggon  
Patricia Milford  
Thomas Harvey  
Debbie White  
Kris Tapie Fay  
Elaine Tapie  
Councilman Conwell  
and the Footprints  
Ginny Helstern

Hot Sauce Williams  
Honey Hut Ice Cream  
Fred Burdette  
Joanne Ditoria  
Pat Cangelosi-Williams  
Lisa Oswald  
Gene Pierre  
Anne McFarland  
St. Lukes Foundation  
Susan Miljenovic  
Art's Cart/  
Chagrin Valley Catering

## **OUR WISH LIST**

- ❖ Computer Server
- ❖ Floor Sander Rental
- ❖ Wood Stain & Polyurethane
- ❖ Chandeliers-Antique
- ❖ Tools, household & garden
- ❖ Commercial Kitchen Tools
- ❖ Shop type Vacuums
- ❖ Pentium 11 or Faster Computers
- ❖ Framed Pictures we can Reuse
- ❖ Picture Frames
- ❖ Matting Materials
- ❖ Vintage Clothing for Thrift Store
- ❖ Small Working Appliances
- ❖ Office Supplies
- ❖ Landscaping plants
- ❖ Spring bulbs
- ❖ One day use of chipper shredder (for tree limb debris)
- ❖ Paint and Art Supplies
- ❖ Winter Clothing
- ❖ Larger Sized Clothing
- ❖ Furniture Items for Thrift Store