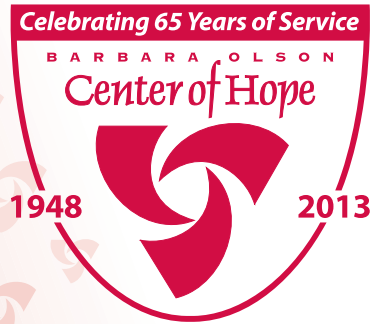


Notes of Hope



A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE IN THE FIELD OF DISABILITIES SINCE 1948. WWW.B-OLSONCENTEROFHOPE.ORG

Spring Tea 2015: Beautiful New Event!

The Center of Hope's first Spring Tea: "Vintage Tea and Fashion Show" on April 12, 2015, combined desserts, vintage fashions, "functional teacup art," and old-fashioned fun into a wonderful afternoon. The Forest Hills Country Club provided a beautiful background for tasty teas from Chai Town Tea, thousands of delicious dessert bites, and the "Vintage Fashion Show" emceed by Whitney Martin of Ch. 23 News. Background harp music by Emily Wonder wrapped our event in elegance. The mostly female guests bid on all the silent auction donations, and the teacup-inspired participant-made items all sold to help make this a successful first time event. Thanks to the Rockford Leadership group from the Rockford Chamber of Commerce for helping the Center in this project. Thank you, Table Sponsors! Special thanks to our Vintage Fashion Show sponsor: Brad and Debbie Johnson, and to the Tea & Truffles Sponsors: Chai Town Tea, Kelley Williamson Co., and Sjostrom & Sons, Inc.! Watch for the 2016 Spring Tea with a new theme on May 1! ♥



Fashions and desserts at the Vintage Tea and Fashion Show, 2015.



COH Staff in vintage fashions pose at the 1928 Model T driven in by Mr. & Mrs. Stan Stewart.



Mowing Green—the COH Eco-Friendly Lawn Mowing Business

Thanks to the encouragement and support of The Coleman Foundation, and in collaboration with Rockford University and Beloit College, a new business venture is taking off at COH with Win-Win-Win results! Mowing Green is an Eco-friendly lawn care enterprise ready to serve the Rockford area. Our trained and certified participants use battery-powered lawn care equipment to professionally trim, edge, mow and blow your lawn area. Zero-emissions! Very low noise levels! Now you can support the environment as you provide employment for COH participants, who work to keep your business or home lawns trim and neat! Call the Center of Hope at 815-964-9275 for more information about Mowing Green!



CD Tree Art Project

Two members of COH's Board of Directors, Lynne and LaVonda, along with staff members Kathleen and Luann, did an art project with our participants using old CDs to further decorate the outdoor garden area with our new art piece "The Tree of Hope". ♥



BARBARA OLSON CENTER OF HOPE • FALL 2015

OUR MISSION: Help individuals with developmental disabilities reach personal goals through individualized skill development, vocational opportunities and community service.

Dear friends,

I am often asked what we do at the Center. After a deep breath, I proudly respond with the array of programs and services that we have been so fortunate to provide to this community for over 68 years. Currently, there is still no state budget agreement. Governor Rauner is talking about making big cuts to balance the budget, which would include possible cuts to our program, as well as other disability-related services. This would be devastating to the Center and would create a grave hardship on many parents who are aging with their adult children at home. At this time, the state only covers about 65% of what we do at the Center. That means we have to greatly increase income from our in-house businesses, donations, and fundraising events.

According to current state statistics, Winnebago and Boone counties have over 142 children that have graduated (or will graduate soon) who are sitting at home with no services. Imagine the regression of skills those parents face every day, watching their children sit idle. Another 363 individuals in Winnebago/Boone are on waiting lists for vocational services. All while legislators are considering more cuts! This is a travesty to our community and our state. So many of these individuals want to be working and be able to support the community they live in. They have dreams to be as independent as possible and use learned skills to the best of their abilities. Illinois does not allow for these individuals. Just as these individuals need their funding, we, and other human services providers, need to maintain at least our

below-minimal funding, to serve those currently in programs.

It is time we say, "Enough is Enough." The Governor cannot balance a state budget with the little funding we get to serve our most vulnerable citizens. Currently, there is still no state budget agreement. This means non-profits like the Center have not received any payment for services since June. How are we to run programs and pay staff, let alone transport all our individuals, with no money?

Please show your support by taking some time to talk to your local legislators and to call Governor Rauner (217) 782-0244 or (312) 814-2121. Tell them to support community programs like Barbara Olson Center of Hope. Tell them to provide appropriate funding levels to community programs so that families living with individuals with developmental disabilities are allowed to dream.

As always, we are so thankful for the generosity of our community, which helps to keep our doors open. We depend on and appreciate your continued support! ♥

Carm Herman

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Carm Herman,
Executive Director

The Blazer Foundation Supports Transition Program

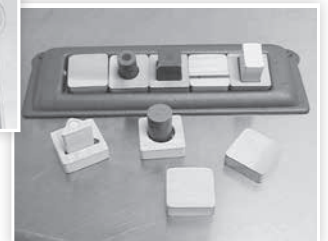


The COH has a grant program called **Building Bridges** that reaches out to families of teens with developmental disabilities while they are still in high school to help assure that all necessary steps are taken to assist in the student's transition into life **after** high school. The Transition process includes explaining and helping parents/guardians gain access to the PUNS list [Prioritization of Urgency of Needs for Services], SSI [Social Security Income], and Medicaid, and understand their responsibilities regarding Guardianship, Wills, and Special Needs Trusts. It also helps the family plan a smooth transition from high school into adult world services by helping the family understand and navigate all the red tape that stands in the way of a success story. If a parent and child do not have a transition plan and do not have some kind of funding in place, the student will be sitting at home after graduation doing nothing. These Building Bridges positions support the Transition piece of the collaborative of Intersect for Ability of Northern Illinois.

The Center is extremely grateful to **The Blazer Foundation**, which has generously granted funding for one year toward paying for these Transition Outreach Specialist positions at the Center. ♥

Check It Out Library

The *Check It Out* lending library, managed by the O.T. dept. at the COH, is for staff to use with participants. An example of available items is the Sensory Box (an easily portable "box" or activity that concentrates on one or more of the senses). Topics in these boxes are typically of high interest for the participants and designed to be completed in a short period. In addition, **Leisure Boxes** are themed activities that are fun and work on motor skills and on-task abilities.



We greatly appreciate the Hononegah High School Senior Class of 2015 for their very generous financial donation!



COH Gardens cared for with help from PCI Employees!

One COH Board member brought several co-workers to tour the COH, and they left our office wonderfully amazed by the work we do for the participants and their families. Employees from Packaging Coordinators, Inc. (fka Anderson Packaging) decided to support the COH via their muscle and time in a few evenings and days: clearing out the overgrowth in our garden, preparing the soil, supplying the vegetable plants and various flowers and starting us off on the road toward a successful vegetable garden and landscaping. With continuing help from the Rockford Area Gardeners of America members, our participants should have an abundant, delicious variety of vegetables with which to learn cooking skills and prepare tasty dishes. Thank you, PCI Volunteers! ♥



Before and After photos of landscaping done by PCI at the side and in rear of the COH grounds.

His Legacy will Live On at COH



C. Charles Johnson at 108th birthday!

Conrad Johnson, born in Sweden in 1904, came to the U.S. in 1923. Residing in Rockford, he lived to be 110 years old, passing away in December 2014. He and his wife had the opportunity to tour our organization, which made quite an impression on him and resulted in a very liberal bequest from his estate. His generosity is already making changes in the lives of our staff and participants. We take this opportunity to remind our friends that bequests are always welcome and greatly appreciated. We thank everyone who has ever donated to the Center of Hope in memory of a loved one.

Our Sincere Thanks to All of You.

Donors from July 1, 2013 thru December 31, 2013.

Our apologies if we have inadvertently failed to list your name. This in no way reflects on our appreciation.

MEMORIALS

Joseph Gaziano

Ditto, Ms. Mary
Flanagan, Mr. & Mrs. Richard
Getto, Ms. Rosemarie
Gwardys, Mr. & Mrs. Stan
Herman, Mr. Charles
Herman, Ms. June
Herman, Patti & Welch, Bill
Nagy, Ms. Susan
Sargent, Mr. & Mrs. Mark
Tim, Ms. LaVonda
Winsett, Mrs. Karen
Zammuto, Ms. Rosemary
Doris Hagaman
Brunner, Mr. & Mrs. Harry
Pringey, Ms. Marian
Michael Rich
Rich, Ms. Sue Ellen
Rigby, Mr. & Mrs. Michael
Warren Tudor
Tudor, Ms. Shirley
Jimmy Winans
Sturtevant, Ms. Debra

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Knights of Columbus - St Rita
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Taylor, Mrs. Phyllis
Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. Gary
Truist
United Methodist Women
Wal-mart
West High School - Class of 1953
Willowbrook Middle School
Winans, Mr. Milton
Zwierzynski, Mr. & Mrs. James

GIVING TUESDAY 12/03/13

Alexander, Vickie
Bari, Alfeo
Bearce, Rosemary
Boone, Kendall
Brooks, Dave
Brown, Ronda
Carey, Pamela
Crust 'n' Crumbles
D'Angelo, Nancy
DeLacey, Lynn
Edwards, Andrew
Escalanté, Debra
Farnham, Greg Edward
Gwardys, Mary
Hautamaki, Tammy
Hayes, Michael
Herman, Carm
Johnson, Deborah
Kerch, Mary Jane
Kovanda, Gary & Jeanne
LaBrant, Luella
Landuyt, Chad
Long, Peggy
Luhmann, Dianne
Magnussen, Robert
McCarty Oster, Theresa
Moore, David
Mosny, Ken
Noel, Sherri
O'Connell, Rebecca
Panozzo, Mark

Renstrom, Pamela
Rogowski, Timothy
Savitski, Peter
Schoff, Rebecca
Scott's RV, Truck & Auto
Tyson, Aaron
Welch, William E.
Willhite, Timothy
Young, Robert
Zammuto, Rose Mary

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Adamany, Mr. & Mrs. John
Adell, Mr. & Mrs. Arvid
Alonzo, Mr. Joseph
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Atwood Foundation
Austin, Mr. & Mrs. Richard
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Barclay, Mr. & Mrs. Richard
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Bastian, Mr. Roger
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Beckwith, Mr. Ralph
Beef-A-Roo, Inc.
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Benjamin, Ms. Margaret
Benson, Mrs. Marilyn
Benson, Ms. Kay
Benz, Mr. & Mrs. James
Bleikli, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence
Bock, Ms. Dorothy
Bonavia, Ms. Marian
Boxleitner, Mr. Jerry
Brearley, Mr. John
Chappell, Ms. Cindy
Claeys, Ms. Jeanne
Conner, Mr. Richard
Corcoran, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis
Creviston, Ms. Debra
Dahlgren, Mr. & Mrs. Mark
D'Angelo, Ms. Nancy
Deitrick, Ms. Dolores
DeLacey, Ms. Lynn
Deming, Richard
Dickson, Ms. Thelma
Eliason, Mr. Jon
Faeth, Ms. Lillian
Farnham, Mr. Greg Edward
Faulkner, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis
Finnicum, Mr. & Mrs. Craig
Flanagan, Mr. & Mrs. Richard

Fulton, Ms. Marilyn
Garrett, Mr. & Mrs. Royce
Gaziano, Ms. Diane
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Giovingo, Mr. Phillip
Glaser, Mr. & Mrs. Robert
Grady, Mr. William
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Greenfield, Mr. Roger
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Hansberry, Mr. James
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Hazlewood-Miller, Mrs. Barbara
Heise, Ms. Jo Ann
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Hooks, Mr. & Mrs. David
Hooper, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas
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Johnson, Ms. Bettie
Johnson, Ms. Deborah
Johnson, Ms. Joyce
Jourdain, Mr. Elmer
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Kelley, Mr. & Mrs. Claire
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More, Ms. Barbara Ann
Mosny, Mr. & Mrs. Ken
Nyquist, Ms. Cynthia
Okeson, Mr. Gilbert
Olson, Mr. & Mrs. Barclay
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Perrecone, Ms. Marian
Phillip, Ms. Barbara
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Powell, Ms. Dorothy
Riggs, Ms. Lois
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Rockford Fastener, Inc.
Rockford Live & Let Live Society
Rockton Lions Club
Rogowski, Mr. & Mrs. Timothy
Rondone, Ms. Mary Ann
Roscoe Lions Club
Rudnicki, Mr. Edward
Ryan, Mr. James
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Scadden, Ms. Viola
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Zammuto, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph
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Community Partner



INTERSECT FOR ABILITY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

Sept. 7..... Labor Day, Center is Closed

Sept. 10..... Monthly Parent Meeting @
COH, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 12..... Saturday Family Breakfast @
Stockholm Inn, 8:30 a.m.

Oct. 10..... Saturday Family Breakfast @
Stockholm Inn, 8:30 a.m.

Oct. 12..... Columbus Day, Center is Closed

Oct. 21..... Quarterly Parent Meeting @
COH, Noon

Oct. 23..... Staff Development Day,
NO PARTICIPANTS

Nov. 10..... Monthly Parent Meeting @
COH, 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 11..... Veterans Day, Center is Closed

Nov. 14..... Saturday Family Breakfast @
Stockholm Inn, 8:30 a.m.

Nov. 26 & 27... Thanksgiving Holiday,
Center is Closed

Dec. 1..... Giving Tuesday!
Special Online donation day

Dec. 3..... Auxiliary hosts Christmas Dance

Dec. 4..... Wine Tasting to benefit COH @
Artale Wine Co. 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 14..... COH Raffle Drawing for Prize
Winners

Dec. 24 – Jan. 3, 2016..... Christmas Break,
Center is Closed

Jan. 18, 2016.. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,
Center is Closed

Barbara Olson Center of Hope

3206 North Central Avenue
Rockford, IL 61101
(815) 964-9275 • Fax (815) 964-9607

www.b-olsoncenterofhope.org

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 Steve Slowinske, LaVonda Timm,
 Mike Tolliver, Mike Webb

Come Taste the Wines & Make New Friends While Supporting COH!



Artalé Wine Co. is hosting a Wine Tasting with appetizers to benefit the Barbara Olson Center of Hope on Friday, December 4, 2015 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Total cost per person is just \$15, and \$10 from each admission goes to the Center! A truly relaxing way to sample many wines from around the world, while mingling and making new acquaintances, all

while supporting the Center. Artale Wine, at 6876 Spring Creek Rd. is next to Pearl, whose owner will donate a portion of payments for meals purchased that evening, when mentioning the COH. Another restaurant, Josef – Barbados, may also be donating a portion from this evening. Watch the Center's Facebook page for more information. No reservations needed for the wine tasting. Please come with your friends and co-workers and join us on 12-04-15!

#GIVINGTUESDAY

The Center of Hope will again participate in Giving Tuesday, Dec. 1, when your end-of-year online contribution to the COH may be matched in some amount.

Watch for details on our Facebook page and future mailings.