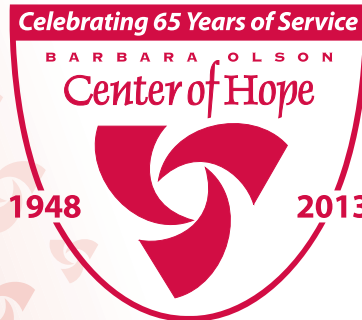


# Notes of Hope



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



## First Spring Tea and Fashion Show!

The Barbara Olson Center of Hope invites you to the first annual Spring Tea, this year featuring a Vintage Fashion Show, to be at the Forest Hills Country Club, 5135 Forest Hills Rd., Rockford, on Sunday afternoon, April 12, 2015 from 1 to 3 p.m.

This inaugural fundraiser is bound to be a special afternoon for all who attend. Enjoy the warm surroundings of the country club as you look over displays of vintage clothing, antique furniture, and functional "teacup art" items made with the participants. Sample various hot teas and numerous sweets as you review and bid on the silent auction offerings from many local artists. The afternoon closes with a vintage clothing fashion show, narrated by WIFR's Whitney Martin! Make your Reservations today on our website, or by calling the Center of Hope at 815-964-9275, ext. 265. Individual tickets are \$30 person (\$10 per child under age 12). Reserved tables of ten are \$325. (Limited to 250 reservations) ♥

IN MEMORY OF

*Becky McClone*

COH EMPLOYEE FOR 37 YEARS

Becky McClone finished her journey on earth peacefully at home surrounded by her family on Monday, January 5, 2015 in Rockton, IL. Besides her husband, family, and friends, Becky is also survived by her "second" family: her clients and co-workers at the Barbara Olson Center of Hope. Becky leaves a legacy of 37 years of service to the Center of Hope, serving and loving individuals who were unable to help themselves. Her meticulous work regarding Quality Assurance, and abiding all regulations enforceable by the State of Illinois Dept. of Human Services, as well as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) helped the Center achieve two successive 100% 3-year accreditation surveys--placing the Center in the top 3% of such facilities nationwide! Her relationship with the associates and participants at the Center of Hope will live on for a lifetime. Becky's dedication to service will be perpetuated with a special award at the Center of Hope. ♥



## Darrell Hines-- Living Independently!

Darrell Hines and tenacity go hand in hand. It is what helped him to excel in a world that told him he could not. Born with cerebral palsy, his family felt they could no longer care for him at home when he reached his early 20's, so he was placed in a nursing home. There he met Norman Fritz, a driver who took him to work packaging materials and other piecework. Norman relentlessly told Darrell he had no business being in a nursing home and should live on his own. Darrell convinced his family to let him move out on his own almost 30 years ago!

After Norman died in a caravan accident, Darrell realized the need to be even more independent. With help from the staff at BOCOH, Darrell began working at Magic Waters cleaning up trash and debris. Within two weeks, he was promoted to supervisor over a group of 5 participants (also from BOCOH) for 5 years! He returned to BOCOH to manage the in-house janitorial crew until they became independent themselves. Despite increased medical conditions, Darrell continues to work and thrive at BOCOH. ♥



*Darrell doing piecework at the Center of Hope.*

BARBARA OLSON CENTER OF HOPE • SPRING 2015

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

Dear Friends,

I am truly perplexed by the multitude of different messages that we, providers of services for our participants, get from our governor.

The state tells us we are to provide person-centered planning; give our individuals choices on how and where they spend their day; look for outside employment instead of in-house work; and find as many natural supports as possible to keep folks employed. Furthermore, be sure to be in the community and integrate with other individuals without disabilities.

I agree, in theory. Everyone should have the right to dream his or her dream. Everyone has a right to work, and should play and live where he or she chooses. Such goals sound awesome. However, there are two major problems with our state's view of serving individuals with severe disabilities in the community.

1. Who has or will talk to their parents to ask if this is what they want for their children?

2. Where will we get the money to implement these steps? Surely the state is not expecting us to do all this for the state's payment of \$10.39/hour per individual.

Illinois has not given anyone many affordable options to dream their dreams.

Families that have individuals with disabilities discover

that once their child leaves high school they have to fight for any services they get, or endure months-/years-long waits until they can get funding for services. This goes for all the non-profits as well.

Thankfully, we are used to fighting. I am sure the legislators cringe when they see non-profits show up in Springfield (which we do), mostly because the legislators do not know how to change a broken system.

As the Center celebrates 67 years of service to individuals with disabilities, I can only be thankful for all the generous Foundations, donors, and community support that have afforded us the ability to keep moving on, trying to implement the current best practices as effectively as we can.

Finally, thank you to our wonderful supporters, our board, staff, families, and participants who make the Center of Hope the best place to work in the world! ♥

Carm Herman

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



*Grand Knight Robert Tetzloff of Holy Family Parish presents Carm Herman with a donation from the council's tootsie roll sales.*



*Actors were flying high above the stage floor in ANGEL-A Musical. Refreshments, displays & more were in the adjoining tent.*

## ANGEL— A Musical was Beautiful!



The Barbara Olson Center of Hope ventured into a new fundraising endeavor this past year when we discovered a special musical had been in the works in Rockford. Mike Webb, Theatre Director at Rock Valley College, had the premiere of his original musical at the RVC Starlight Theatre, Mike's home-away-from-home, on August 8, 2014. His ANGEL-A Musical presentation that evening was a benefit for the Center of Hope. This production is about his family's life with Kaitlynn, their daughter who has Rett Syndrome. This stage performance had literal "flights of fantasy"

as actors portraying his daughter, and people who were affected by meeting this loving child, soared through the air onstage. The performance was held on a beautiful clear, warm evening, ideally suited for the additional activities of a Reception/Silent Auction and Information in the big tent adjacent to the theatre. Over 600 guests, including many of our participants, sat in rapt attention to the uplifting story. A special surprise was the appearance of Kaitlynn on stage at the end of the performance. She was very happy to be there. We are extremely grateful to Mr. Webb for sharing his story with and for the Center of Hope. We are immensely proud of the support shown by the community in attending our event. Our sincere gratitude to the major sponsors, without whom this would not have been possible.



**DIRECTOR AND PRODUCING SPONSORS:** Advanced Machine & Engineering and Hennig, Inc., the Blazer Foundation, the Coleman Foundation, Bergstrom, Greenlee-A Textron Co., Rockford Health Systems and RHS-Dept. of Anesthesiology. ♥

## What comes after High School? Start Transitions Early!

The Center of Hope is working collaboratively with a group of agencies on many issues pertaining to individuals with disabilities. One topic that needs to be addressed early on is Transitioning to life after High School. In preparing to leave high school, students will have many decisions to make including:

- What kinds of work do they want to do?
  - What additional education or training will be required?
  - Where do they want to live?
  - What will be required to live independently?
  - To what transportation options do they have access?
- (And many more)

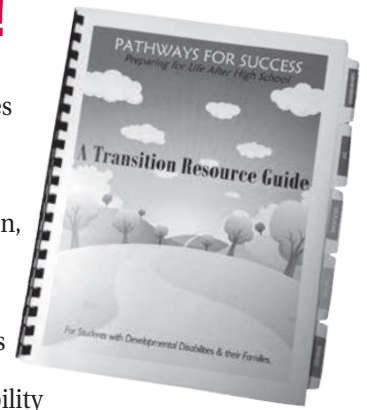
Families are encouraged to begin thinking about transition planning while children are young, formal transition planning for students with disabilities should begin by age 14.

The Center of Hope's Student Transition program allows students to discover their true interests, passions and, ultimately, their goals through learning activities, job training assignments, and employment opportunities. The Center's

programs are designed for all students, and promote all choices and options after high school.

Visit our website [www.olsoncenterofhope.org](http://www.olsoncenterofhope.org) under Programs and Services, Education, for an informative video and a downloadable booklet/toolkit "Pathways For Success - A Transition Resource Guide". This toolkit and accompanying video were created by "Intersect for Ability Northern Illinois" and funded by the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois.

If you have any questions regarding our Student Transition Program, please call the Center of Hope at (815)964-9275 and ask for Kelley Peterson.



### Our Sincere Thanks to All of You.

Donors from Jan. 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2013.

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

#### MEMORIALS

**Jeanette Bailey-Murray**  
Tudor, Ms. Shirley Ann  
**Armour Bedstrom**  
Noorman, Mr. Jack  
**Teresa Maria Ditto**  
Ditto, Ms. Mary  
**Bill Guirl**  
Olson, Ms. Katrina  
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Mosny, Mr. & Mrs.  
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Benson, Ms. Kay  
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Ditto, Ms. Mary  
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Moon, Mr. Michael



#### MEMORIAL

*Kevin Haven*



*Kevin Haven passed away on  
September 27th, 2014*

### Remembering our Friend

*by Regina R., Heather L., Carrie M., Richard C.,  
Robert W., and Kathy J.*

If you ask me about Kevin  
We know he is in Heaven  
He spoke to everyone and always had fun  
He loved bowling and track  
He won medals that's a fact

Kevin was easy going and polite and great at  
conversations

He would make you feel alright  
He shook hands with everyone he would meet  
And, asked them to have a seat and talk a while

Kevin liked to go out to eat  
He thought it was a real neat treat  
Coffee, apples, mac and cheese  
He wasn't very hard to please

He was always so kind and tender  
We will always remember  
Kevin.



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Transforming Lives...**  
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**INTERSECT FOR ABILITY**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| April 3.....Good Friday, Center is Closed   | June 13.....Saturday Family Breakfast @ Stockholm Inn, 8:30 a.m.            |
| April 11.....Saturday Family Breakfast @ Stockholm Inn, 8:30 a.m.                     | June 19.....Summer Bash for participants, families, staff at COH, 5:30 p.m. |
| April 12.....Spring Tea and Vintage Fashion Show 1-3 p.m. @ Forest Hills Country Club | July 3.....Independence Day Observed. Center CLOSED                         |
| April 15.....Quarterly Parent Meeting @ COH, 9:30 a.m.                                | July 11.....Saturday Family Breakfast @ Stockholm Inn, 8:30 a.m.            |
| April 17.....Staff Development Day, No PARTICIPANTS                                   | July 15.....Quarterly Parent Meeting @ COH, 9:30 a.m.                       |
| May 9.....Saturday Family Breakfast @ Stockholm Inn, 8:30 a.m.                        | July 24.....Staff Development Day, NO PARTICIPANTS                          |
| May 12.....Monthly Parent Meeting @ COH, 6:30 p.m.                                    | Aug. 8.....Saturday Family Breakfast @ Stockholm Inn, 8:30 a.m.             |
| May 25.....Memorial Day, Center is Closed   | Aug. 11.....Monthly Parent Meeting @ COH, 6:30 p.m.                         |
| June 11.....Monthly Parent Meeting @ COH, 6:30 p.m.                                   |   |

### Barbara Olson Center of Hope

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

[www.b-olsoncenterofhope.org](http://www.b-olsoncenterofhope.org)

A Private Not-For-Profit 501(c)3 Agency

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Vice-Pres. .... Dr. Kendall Boone  
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Darryl Hines, Joe Licari, Tim Rogowski,  
Kevin Rudy, Pete Savitski,  
Steve Slowinske, LaVonda Timm,  
Mike Tolliver, Mike Webb

## Parent Auxiliary's Christmas Dance!

The COH Parent Aux. provides a wonderful party each December for the participants, their families, residential homes and COH staff & families. Last December's event was wonderful! Everyone had a great time. Thank you, COH Parents Auxiliary and The Classix, for the music and a night to remember!

*"Dinner is Served" including cake and punch!*



## Mega Raffle: 2014 Winners!

The Parent Auxiliary greatly appreciates all the staff, parents, and friends who bought and sold the Mega-Raffle tickets for the Center of Hope fundraiser this year. Almost all 3500 tickets sold! With donations, the Auxiliary gained a profit over \$4,000!

#### LUCKY WINNERS

- |     |        |   |
|-----|--------|---|
| 1st | \$500: | Brianna Nivinski                                      |
| 2nd | \$250  | Marge Parrish   |
| 3rd | \$250  | Ken Rudy – Who DONATED BACK TO THE CENTER! Thank you! |
| 4th | \$200  | Anonymous – DONATED BACK TO THE CENTER! Thank you!    |
| 5th | \$100  | Joe Condon  |