

Horizon News



www.newhorizoncenter.org

Spring '11

Jhanea's Prose



Inspirational Thoughts by Jhanea

Written is the beautiful prose of Jhanea. She is sharing her thoughts of spring.

Festival of Chefs

New Horizon Center's 12th annual Festival of Chefs is moving to a new location and will be held on May 16th at Victoria in the Park located in Mt. Prospect, IL. After 5 wonderful and successful years at the Holiday Inn: Mart Plaza (during which we raised over \$400,000), we decided that a change of venues

was appropriate. We are incredibly grateful to the Holiday Inn, John Dexter, Chef Len Trevino and the restaurant's wait staff. They've been so gracious to New Horizon Center over the past five years, and we cannot thank them enough for their hospitality.

New Horizon Center for the Developmentally Disabled Presents

The 12th Annual Festival of Chefs
Monday, May 16, 2011
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Victoria in the Park
1700 South Elmhurst Rd.
Mt. Prospect, IL

\$100.00 per person
Ticket information:
Kathy Alvarez at
773-286-6226 x 222

Winter Wonderfest Program

Under the direction of Joel Kay, Music Therapist, New Horizon Center held its first holiday music program for our partners in the community, friends and family members. After weeks of practicing, our first attempt at a musical production went off without a snag. Every staff member played a vital role in the success of the program,

either as a part of the event or by working behind the scenes to ensure that each act was ready to go on. Special recognition was given to individual staff members who were involved in the organizational aspects of the show.



Acknowledgements:

New Horizon Center's first Holiday Program was dedicated to the late Roy Ripka who was a wonderful friend to our students (especially those students on his bus route).

Thank you to Wilbur Wright College for supplying NHC with technology equipment.

Thank you to Judith of Stillpoint Theater for organizing our adult program act.

To Nuccio from Vince's Restaurant in Harwood Heights: Thank you for your generosity.

A special thank you is extended to all New Horizon Center staff for their commitment to our first holiday program. Their diligent efforts made the Winterfest Holiday Program a huge success. You bring out the best in our students because you are the "Best."

To Rosa Alonso, Dawn Munyon, Diane Walsh and Sharron Stone: Your costume designs were unique and colorful. They portrayed the festive colors of the holidays.

To Isabella Marrero, Mary Ellen Vanderman, Kinga Maciejewski, Victoria Sallas, Andy Battye and Michael Bolton: Thank you for your gifted technical and artistic skills.

To Carrol Weathington and Mary Woolworth: Your selection of pastries and appetizers were fantastic.

To Erika Chacon and Lucy Diaz: Your program design was beautiful. It captured the warmth and beauty of the holiday season.

To Kathy Cusentino, Enza Sparacio and Karen Harding: Thank you for organizing the bake sale. Our guests enjoyed purchasing homemade cakes and cookies.

To the New Horizon Center choir: Your songs portrayed the true meaning of the holidays. They helped everyone get into the holiday spirit.

To NHC student helpers Jacqueline, Junior, Andrew and Cody: Thank you for your assistance. Your help was important to the success of the afternoon.

To Robert Monroig: Everyone thanks you for being our behind-the-scenes person. At the end of every activity or event, you are always there to put the facility back in order.

Thank you to the entire staff for working as a team to make my dream and goal come true.

And finally to Joel Kay, thank you for all your patience in making our first holiday program so successful. Without your warm-hearted spirit, patient direction, unwavering faith and encouragement to everyone, this wonderful experience could not have taken place.

Carole Kilcoyne, Executive Director

It can be very difficult for physically challenged children to maximize their physical and social development. The physical therapy department here at New Horizon Center provides opportunities for many students to stand and/or walk. Studies have shown that there are many benefits of weight-bearing. Bones and joints form based on the forces placed upon them. Children with abnormal tone benefit from weight-bearing in proper postural alignment to facilitate formation of

the hip joint and decrease torsion of the long bones and the risk of fracture. Standing programs can also increase range of motion, decrease spasticity and prevent contractures. Other beneficial effects include improved renal, respiratory and digestive functions. It can also be helpful in students with a risk for skin breakdown.

In addition to all these physical benefits there are many social and psychological benefits of standing/walking. Standing may positively impact the student's arousal,

care provider's perception of the student's receptivity and readiness to participate in interactions. Many of our teachers at New Horizon Center utilize equipment that allows students to simultaneously work on tasks both physically and mentally, which has been shown to maximize success.

Information taken from "Heightened Awareness" in the Advance journal by Stephanie Labandz, DPT. January 24, 2011

News from Troop # 1967

Diane Walsh COTA and Kathleen Farina COTA, New Horizon Center's troop leaders, organized a winter science activity focused on feeding birds. The scouts covered a pinecone with Crisco and then rolled the cone in bird seeds. Students at first did not like the feel of the Crisco but enjoyed rolling the cone with seeds.

With the help of Boy Scout Leaders Joe Peraino and David Bernstein, Troop #1967 held their Pinewood Derby in the atrium area of NHC. The Pinewood Derby is a racing event in which Cub Scouts build their own cars from wood kits. Scouts must build their cars within specific requirements, including length and weight. Leader Joe Peraino made the cars for our troop and then had the scouts paint their racing car.

NHC Troop #1967 scheduled several heats for all the scouts to compete in. With the assistance of the Scout Leaders and neighborhood cub scouts, the troop raced their cars down a two-lane sloped track. On the sidelines, fellow classmates cheered as the racecars crossed the finish line. In the end, everyone enjoyed the afternoon and everyone was a winner.

Troop #1967 is sponsoring Operation Care Package: "Let No Hero Be Forgotten." Our scouts are collecting Pennies for the Solders." Staff members, parents and board members are asked to send in their pennies for the scouts to fill a large jar. The pennies are collected for our troops, and donations are sent to the troops along with a letter or picture from a scout.

If you have pennies you wish to donate, drop by New Horizon Center and give your pennies to the front office. You can also place your pennies in a secure envelope or plastic bag and drop the donation in the school mailbox.



And the Winner Is

Kevin Mizit was the lucky winner of a Weekend for 4 to Super Bowl XLV in Dallas, Texas. The trip included airfare and 2 nights at the Hilton Garden Inn. The seller of the ticket was Tony Marchese of DKM Insurance. The Besser Family donated the Super Bowl tickets. Their daughter Jacqueline drew the winning ticket.

Top sellers of the Super Bowl were: Edward Doherty, donor; Wendy Dury, Board member; Larry Gerlach, Board member; Fred Haberkamp, Board member; Donald Kush, NHC Social Worker; Tony Marchese of DKM Insurance; Commander David Mc Naughton, 17th District; John Tompkins, NHC President; Sue Tompkins, supporter;

and George Tompkins, supporter from New York. Thank you to all for your hard-working efforts on behalf of our children and adults with special needs.



Celebrating Staff Anniversaries

This year New Horizon Center celebrated the anniversaries of three staff members.

Cathy Cross – 15 years
Kathy Cusentino – 15 years
(Paraprofessional) and Janet Miller – 10 years, *(Registered Physical Therapist)*.

New Horizon Center is very fortunate in maintaining a consistent program with experienced staff. There is very little turnover in staff from year to year.

ROBERTO, TANIKA & KELSY
BY TIA HILLIARD

Children Enter Into A World
Some Are Born With A Special Need
All Children Are Handmade By God
And All Are Beautiful Indeed.
God Sends His Children Down From
Heaven And Places Them All Around The World.
If You Get A Special Needs Child,
He Or She Is Supposed To Be There.
These Children Came To Our School
With The Help Of The Teacher, Aides And Staff
They Did Blossom And Bloom.
Knowing These Little Angels,
They Recently Went Home To Heaven With A New Job
God Assigned Them. They Are Now
Guardian Angels.



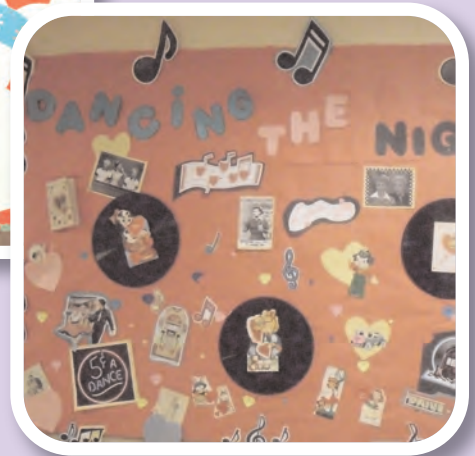
Congress & the President Scrub the R-word

Some people have mental retardation (intellectual disabilities). While mental retardation is not by itself a bad term, when someone uses it to describe someone or something thoughtlessly, it becomes extremely hurtful. People with intellectual disabilities are not bad. Their condition is not bad. The prejudice and discrimination to persons with intellectual disabilities is bad... and wrong! Do not use the word "retard." It hurts individuals and families with disabilities.

The House of Representatives approved a bill that eliminates the use of the words "retarded" and "retardation" in health, education and labor laws.

The bill changes the term from "mental retardation" to "intellectual disability" and "mentally retarded individual" to individual with an "intellectual disability." This language would make it more consistent with the language already used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United Nations and the White House.

The bill, which passed in the House and Senate in August, was proposed by Senator Barbara Mikulski and signed by President Obama on October 5, 2010. It is called Rosa's Law, named for a girl from Maryland who has Down syndrome. Her brother Nick said, "What you call people is how you treat them. What you call my sister is how you will treat her. If you believe she's 'retarded' it invites taunting, stigma. It invites bullying and it also invites the slammed doors of being treated with respect and dignity." Lesson learned: "When you say 'retarded' someone hurts." Stop and think.



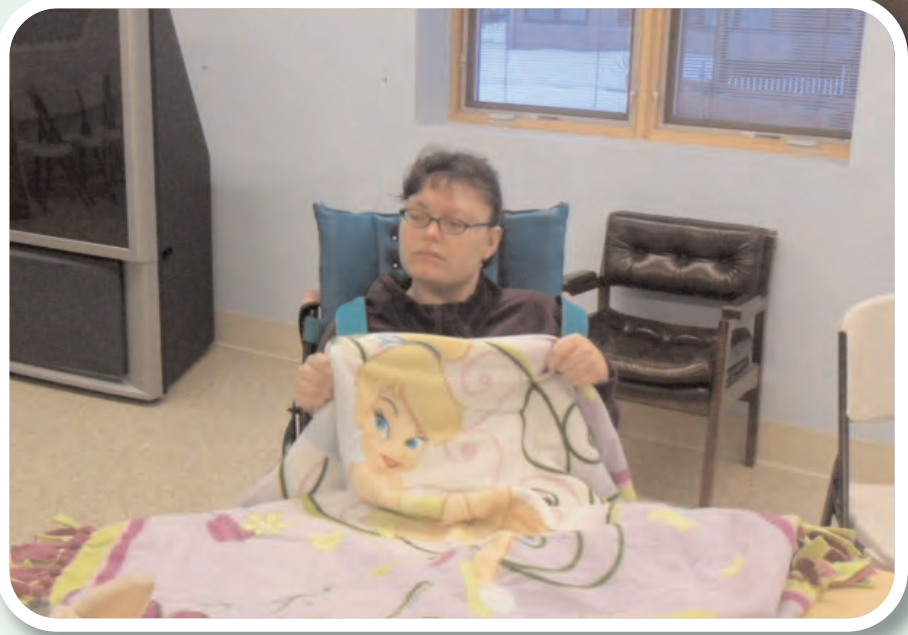
For A Special Someone

A memorial or honor donation to New Horizon Center for the Developmentally Disabled is a meaningful way for a donor to honor someone special, recognize a significant achievement, celebrate a special day or make a gift in honor of someone who is deceased. We send a letter of acknowledgement to the family or the person that a donation was made in honor of or in memory of the special occasion.

To make an honor or memorial gift, call Gene Bijak at 773-286-6226 x 215.

St. Patrick's Day Queen and her Court

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, Sarah Gorecki, St. Patrick's Day Queen and her court toured New Horizon Center before the big parade. This was the 56th St. Patrick's Day Parade. Jimmy W. was honored to play an Irish tune on the piano for the queen and her court. Standing from left to right: Miss Peg Flisk, Miss Kelley McKenna, Queen Sarah Gorecki, Miss Sara Collins and Miss Erin Mulcahey. Sara Collins is a neighbor of Jimmy and babysat for him as a child. They are longtime friends.



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Adult Corner

The Adult Program always tries to find activities that have a functional purpose. The program's most recent project is making blanket quilts for the children's and adult program. Due to physical limitations many students and adults are in wheelchairs. During the extreme cold, an extra covering for warmth is sometimes needed.

Sylvia Gonzalez is working with our Adult clients to make lap covers for students to keep them warm on cold, wintry days.

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PRESENTS

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Mount Prospect, IL

Patron Ad Rates

Diamond Patron (<i>full page</i>)	\$500
Gold Patron (<i>full page</i>)	\$250
Silver Patron (<i>full page</i>)	\$100
Emerald Patron (<i>half page</i>)	\$60
Inside Front or Back cover	\$1000 or more

Pictures must be no larger than 4" x 6"

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ Page Ad

Please make all checks payable to: **New Horizon Center**

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Program Ad secured by _____ Date _____

All Ads must be received by May 2, 2011 ~ Your contributions are tax deductible
Please print "camera ready" ad below or e-mail your logo to kalvarez@newhorizoncenter.org

This publication is being distributed by New Horizon Center for the Developmentally Disabled. New Horizon Center operates programs for children and adults with disabilities. The intent of this newsletter is to keep the community abreast of current educational and training programs and events sponsored by the agency.

New Horizon Center admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the Center. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color and national origin in administration of its educational policies.

Horizon News
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