



# News & Views

*WCI — Work, Community, Independence*

A Biannual Newsletter Volume 6, Issue N° 1 — Winter/Spring 2011

## Message from the President and CEO

This past winter has been extreme with all of the snow storms that we have had. Even with the snow and the cold weather, WCI managed to finish the Wheelchair Lift that was added to our Life Skills Day Habilitation Program at Rumford Avenue, in Waltham. The project began in February of 2010 by selecting one company out of several that we investigated. We selected Garavanta, New Hampshire to provide the Lift. Al Costa was our Architect and Frank Vanaria, our Contractor. Although it was a long and involved project, it was carefully and beautifully crafted to match the building including a ramp and a vestibule so that there is cover for those using it in bad weather. It was finally inspected by the State in December, 2010. It's now available for anyone to use who attends or visits our program on the 2nd floor of the building. We hope to hold a ribbon cutting in April when the weather is nicer so that many can attend and not only see the completed lift, but take a ride in it.

Our next project is 8 Hatherly Road which will be completed this spring. It is a 4 bedroom single family home in Waltham with all four bedrooms on the first floor.

It was renovated for four people who need an accessible home due to increased medical and mobility needs. It now has a fully accessible bathroom and an accessible ½ bath as well. The kitchen and dining area are spacious with skylights and a wall of windows. The living room also adds more space and privacy for people who want to be on their own. It has a ramp off the dining room so that the home is accessible and has easy access out to the driveway. Everyone is looking forward to moving soon in April.

The Newsletter this winter is devoted to awards, WCI and our wonderful staff.

In September, 2010, ANCOR kicked off the fall season with a Legacy Leaders Award, which was an honor for me to be considered. I went to Washington, DC for



**Nancy Silver Hargreaves, President and CEO**

the event, which was held in the beautiful Self-Portrait Museum, to receive the award.

At the same time, ANCOR honored DSPs to DC and Cecelia Norman attended the conference and the Legacy Leaders Award Ceremony. Together, we also spent an afternoon meeting with our Representatives and Senators in Congress or their aides to discuss FMAP which improved our budgets in FY'2010 & 11, the need for fair, living wages for DSPs and other issues regarding Medicaid and Long Term Supports.

In November, WCI was nominated (by Diane Iagulli from Delta Projects) and awarded the Peer Provider Award at the Mass Council of Human Service Providers Convention, which was an honor to receive. It was thrilling standing on the stage with Liz Brunner, Anchor at WCVB, who presented the awards with the entire provider community watching and present.

On December 7th, we held our annual Holiday Awards Banquet, honoring 5 Individuals, one from each Division and Gary Blumenthal, ADDP President & CEO, for the Human Service Advocate of the Year; Bentley College Service Learning Project for the Helping Hands Award; Union Street Restaurant & Bar for Employer of the Year and Robert Clancy for Benefactor of the Year.

This was truly the year of awards. Read further to hear about our award recipients.

## Nancy Silver Hargreaves receives National Award

Nancy Silver Hargreaves, President & CEO received ANCOR's (American Network of Community Options and Resources) Legacy Leader Award at the National Self-Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. Nancy has been the President & CEO of WCI for 26 years and a member of ANCOR for 24 years, becoming the Massachusetts Representative in 1991. ANCOR, is celebrating its 40th anniversary by creating the ANCOR Foundation Legacy Leaders Circle, which honors the accomplishments of the men and women who have paved the way to life in community settings for people with disabilities.

These visionary leaders have made meaningful community participation a reality for the nearly 500,000 Americans with disabilities ANCOR providers support. The ANCOR Foundation Legacy Leaders Circle honors the finest and most influential leaders, while creating an endowment to fund the development of future leaders in our field. The Inaugural class was inducted into the Circle on September 13, 2010 at ANCOR's 40th Anniversary Celebration.



**Nancy, along with Cece Norman, Director of Supports traveled to Washington, D.C. in September and attended the Governmental Affairs and DSP Conference, where Nancy was honored.**

## Wine Tasting

The 4th Annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction occurred on Thursday, November 4th at the Robert Treat Payne Estate in Waltham. Approximately 115 guests attended, enjoying red and white wines from California, Italy and Argentina, organized by Gordon's Fine Wine and Liquors. The event was catered by Better Life Food who provided an assortment of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, calzones, finger sandwiches and an assortment of desserts. The Silent Auction was a great success with attendees bidding on approximately 50 items, such as Patriot's Tickets, Bruins Tickets, Celtics Tickets, a 26" television, Roundtrip Airline Tickets for two and a Week Stay in Lakeville, MA. All auction items were generously provided by many donors including Karen Osborn Shanley, Ed Keljick and Rick Gordon. Between ticket sales, silent auction sales and Ad Book sales, the event profited \$13,915.

Dona Jarvis, Art Initiative Coordinator and Aneta Hazen, Employment/Day Supports Division Head displayed paintings, note cards and jewelry from the Art Initiative Program and Deaf Employment Support Program. Dona and Aneta did a great deal of business taking many orders throughout the night. All proceeds for the products sold through the Art Initiative Program go directly back to the program.

The Board of Directors and Jamie Cooper, Executive Administrator and Development Coordinator, worked diligently to create a successful evening that all enjoyed.



## Holiday Awards Banquet

The WCI Annual Holiday Awards Banquet was held on December 7, 2010 at the Hellenic Center in Watertown, MA. 250 people attended the event, including Individuals supported, Board of Directors, friends and family. Individual Success Story Awards were given out to Individuals who overcame challenges, met one or many of their goals or had an extraordinary year, overall. Individuals that received the Success Story Awards were:

Felicia Swenson-Jones – Social Supports  
 Rachel O'Keefe – Employment/Day Supports  
 Kevin Browne – Individual Supports  
 Jack Wallinger – 24 Hour Supports  
 Aida Costa – Deaf Supports

The evening was also a chance to honor community members that support WCI throughout the year. Those that are honored go above and beyond in providing support to WCI either through advocacy, volunteering, support to Individuals in the workplace or through donations. The following people were honored:

Gary Blumenthal, President & CEO of ADDP – Human Service Advocate of the Year  
 Union Street Restaurant & Bar – Employer of the Year  
 Service Learning Program at Bentley College – Helping Hands Award  
 Robert Clancy – Benefactor of the Year

Congratulations to all! The evening included dinner and dancing and all had a wonderful time!



## DSP Conference

WCI celebrated Direct Support Professional Week September 13th – 17th. This was an ANCOR initiative; however, with the help of Julia Hurst, Quality Assurance Coordinator, WCI has launched its own process of recognizing those Direct Support Professionals that go above and beyond. Supervisors each wrote nominations about staff that they felt embodied the Mission of WCI and went above and beyond each and every day. Jean Leroy’s (Grove Street) Supervisor wrote that Jean “is a shining example of an employee who strives to achieve our Mission every day” and it was written that Emmanuel Vital’s (Gay Street) “work ethic and dedication to the Individuals we support is of the highest standard”. Ginette Penn (146 Hammond Street) was also nominated for being “a truly committed Support Staff who treats everyone with dignity and respect”. The bulletin board in the kitchen at WCI’s Main Office is decorated with the complete write ups on each nominee along with their picture. The complete list includes:

- \* Miguell Francois - Park Street
- \* Elmane Louijeune - Clark Lane 2
- \* Galvane Louis - Slade Street
- \* Ginette Penn - 146 Hammond Street
- \* Dona Jarvis - Employment/Day Supports
- \* Jeannot Melon - Ellison Park
- \* Aniebukmfon Anaka - Townsend Street
- \* Emmanuel Vital - Gay Street
- \* Jean Ronald Paul - Hardy Pond Road
- \* Paul Kinyanjui - Whittier Avenue
- \* Angela Soni - Deaf Employment Supports
- \* Olubenga Oluyokun - Clark Lane 1
- \* Jean Leroy - Grove Street
- \* Hugette Jean - Lafayette Street
- \* Mujib Kasule - Whittier Avenue

Paul Kinanjui and James Njenga, two of WCI’s Direct Support Staff attended the DSP Conference on November 3rd and 4th in Plymouth at the Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor. The conference honored and celebrated the work of DSPs, supported DSP professional learning and provided an opportunity for connection and mutual support.

Congratulations to all the nominees! A luncheon celebrating the above DSP’s will occur in April.



Paul Kinanjui (second from left, standing) and James Njenga (far right, standing) at the DSP Conference in November. Following the conference, Paul and James brought back materials and wrote summaries on their experiences.

## Biggest Loser

This past Spring 20 Employees at WCI took part in a competition to create a healthier lifestyle and lose weight. The competition, titled “Biggest Loser” at WCI was the brainchild of Anne Ndunda, Staff Accountant. The idea came to Anne after a conversation with Joe Donati, Deaf Supports Division Head, in which he shared that he had joined Weight Watchers. 20 Employees were divided into teams of four, allowing for each person to have a support group; however, the competition was an individual one, increasing the motivation level. There were only three simple requirements, which included the need to lose weight, being available for a weigh in every other week and paying a \$25.00 registration fee. The \$25.00 registration fee went to a prize for the top three “biggest losers”, an added motivation. Each person weighed in every other week for 12 weeks and the percentage of weight loss per person was posted along with the percentage of weight loss per Team.

Once the Teams were divided, they immediately got to work and created a name for their Team. The Teams were:

**Craving Cutters:** Karen Hickman, Jessica Rich, Brian Jones, Nancy Silver Hargreaves;

**Belly Busters:** Julia Hurst, Lauren Pollard, Bob Perry, La’Shon Allen;

**Chubby Checkers:** Frank Rich, Lucien Archambault, Anne Ndunda, Pam Laventure;

**Fat Fighters:** Karen Dooley, Paula Dunn – Meadows, Joe Donati ; Cece Norman;



Joe Donati poses for his “after” picture. Joe was the First Runner Up losing a total weight loss of 16.5%!

**Slim Fasters:** Jason Dulong, Cutie King, Asti Asdelina, Marcita Richards.

Every week, Anne posted articles and fun facts about Nutrition, exercise, stress management, etc. With the motivation, each person found what did or did not work for them and in the end, a total of 322.60 pounds were lost by the group as a whole. Changes that have occurred are that people have very little candy on their desks, office parties now include salad and healthier options, and an overall healthier attitude throughout the office.

The Winning Group, Slim Fasters, each received a \$30 gift card, courtesy of WCI and the Biggest Loser, Jay Dulong received \$300. In May, a luncheon was held to celebrate the accomplishments of those that participated in which Mayor Jeannette McCarthy was in attendance along with the Waltham News Tribune. Mayor McCarthy was so impressed by the initiative she stated that she would like to do something similar in City Hall.

This project was such a success that it has carried over to staff supporting Individuals to eat healthier and to exercise.

The Biggest Loser at WCI was a true testament to a group coming together to assist each other in reaching a common and individual goal. The ca-



Team Category Winners, Joe Donati, Karen Dooley, Paula Dunn-Meadows and Cece Norman (aka Fat Fighters) pose for their “before” picture.



Jay Dulong, flanked by Anne Ndunda, Mayor Jeannette McCarthy and Nancy Silver Hargreaves receives his prize for being The Biggest Loser at WCI.

maraderie and commitment that was displayed was truly remarkable. Congratulations to all that participated!

## News Bites



Employees enjoyed the Staff Holiday Party held on December 2nd at the Chateau Restaurant in Waltham. Many received Length of Service Awards and Awards of Appreciation for going above and beyond throughout the year.



Staff at the Main Office celebrated Breast Cancer Awareness Week. All wore pink to show their support.

## WCI Wish List

### Items for Donation:

- Furniture
- Digital cameras and other electronics
- Small and large appliances
- Home furnishings and decorative items
- Outdoor furniture and equipment
- Arts & crafts or board games
- Artwork or other hanging items (non-breakable)
- Vehicles
- Gift cards or sports tickets
- Men's/Women's gently used clothing
- Other

Please note: we can only accept new or *gently used* items. Thank you for your understanding. If you would like to donate an item, please contact Jamie Cooper at 781-899-8220 ext. 134 or email [jcooper@wearewci.org](mailto:jcooper@wearewci.org).



Nancy Silver Hargreaves, President & CEO (far right) accepted the Peer Provider Award on behalf of WCI (nominated by Delta Projects) at the Providers' Council Annual Convention hosted by Liz Brunner. Agencies are honored for "initiating new services or models of services, legislative victories, consumer accomplishments or successes in the community". Congratulations WCI! Photo Credit: Providers' Council



Work, Community, Independence  
135 Beaver Street, 1st Floor  
Waltham, MA 02452

p: 781-899-8220 x120  
[www.wearewci.org](http://www.wearewci.org)

*We are an organization dedicated to supporting and empowering people with intellectual disabilities to achieve a rich, full life at home, at work, and in their communities.*