



Homes for Autism

The Brightest Hope for People with Autism

Quarterly News

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In This Issue:

Letter from the President
Upcoming Events
Fundraisers
Remembering David Eubanks

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Dear Friends,

Despite your personal and business stresses over the past year, *Homes for Autism* wants you to know that your donations and compassionate efforts have had far-reaching effects on our residents and we thank you sincerely. Your contributions have been vital to our continuing mission to provide and maintain houses for adults with autism.

With the alarming, increased rate of incidence (the current statistic is 1 in 91; 1 in 58 for boys), *Homes for Autism* must continue to grow with the population of adults in need of independent living situations. Working towards that goal, we continue to raise funds with our exciting events. Our most recent, the **13th Annual Ring of Hope Dinner**, was held at the Detroit Institute of Arts on November 7th. We were very proud to honor Peggy and Dave Meador as the recipients of our 2009 Golden Ring of Hope Award (highlights and photos are provided on page two).

We welcome your attendance at one of our planned events in 2010:

Our 15th Annual Irish Pub Night is scheduled for Sunday, March 28th, at Four Green Fields in Royal Oak. We always look forward to providing our guests with great food and prizes, plus entertainment provided by Pat McDunn and the Irish Gaels.

"*The Run for Autism*" is scheduled for Sunday, May 16th. We are most fortunate to be partnering again with Oakland University's Center for Autism Research, Education and Support (OUCARES), where the event will be held on their beautiful campus. We're hoping for another extraordinary success!

Please enjoy the upcoming holiday season and, as all of you, we at Homes for Autism are hopeful that 2010 will bring a renewed spirit to our country, state, friends and families.

Bill Schramm, President

Upcoming Events

15th Annual Irish Night
Sunday, March 28, 2010
6:00 P.M.
Four Green Fields
13 Mile & Woodward, Royal Oak

The Run for Autism
to benefit
Homes for Autism & OUCARES
Sunday, May 16, 2010
Oakland University Campus

Fundraisers

From the moment one walked up the great stone steps to the Woodward entrance of the Detroit Institute of Arts, one anticipated that November 7th would turn out to be a very special evening of celebration for Homes for Autism's 13th Annual Ring of Hope Dinner. The theme this year was "The HeART of Giving" and the venue offered our patrons the beauty of one of the most significant art museums in the country.

Guests enjoyed gourmet food stations in the magnificent Kresge Court and a tour of a special exhibition of the comprehensive study of photographs by American photographer, Richard Avedon. To complete the festivities of the evening, entertainment was provided by the band, *JoyRide*.

Our sincerest respect and congratulations went to the recipients of our 2009 Golden Ring of Hope Award, Peggy and Dave Meador. Dave is Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of DTE Energy. The Meadors are parents of a daughter with autism and are relentless advocates for individuals with autism and their families. Their efforts mirror the mission of *Homes for Autism*, to help people with autism achieve their best and to live and grow towards a better quality of life.

We would like to recognize and thank our board, sponsors and committee members for their enthusiastic participation and valuable time spent to make this year's dinner one of our most successful.



Remembering David Eubanks

At the end of May 2009, one of our Waterford house residents, David Eubanks, passed away. In her grief, house manager, Christina Demeere, has only just recently been able to respond to our request for a remembrance of David. Thank you, Tina, for being so brave and eloquent in your recollection of David and his beautiful spirit.

David was 42, almost 43, when he passed away. David lived in a Homes for Autism house to learn to become independent, which was one of his dreams. David was a dreamer -- and fulfilled most of his hopes and dreams while with us and I am confident he is fulfilling the rest of them in the next world. David liked bowling, watching wrestling, arts and crafts, going to eat at the Big Boy, going to the movies and just sitting at home watching television. His favorite TV show was Power Rangers and he loved old movies - especially the Godzilla and the King Kong sequels.

Most of all, David loved to be someone's friend. Through the years as manager at his home, David showed me what it meant to be a true friend. He was always there to help you when you needed something and even better at listening when you needed to talk. David loved everyone, even when he did not receive love in return. He never expected anything extra from anyone. He only wanted others to be nice to him, to treat him with dignity, and to respect his personal space. He *really* liked you if you provided him with his favorite drink -- soda pop.

At the time of his death, David was surrounded by many of the family and friends who loved him -- housemates Chris and Danny; caregivers that included myself, Felicia, James, Rico, Janet and his support coordinator, Mark; and his wonderful and supportive family member, Aunt Joyce.

David became an organ donor and saved more than 50 lives. His friend, Joe, was in need of a kidney but, unfortunately, it wasn't a match. David would have liked being a donor to Joe - they were wrestling buddies.

David is missed every day and always will be. Rest in peace, David. We will love you forever and we miss you lots...