



Homes for Autism

The Brightest Hope for People with Autism

Quarterly News

Volume 5

Winter 2009

In This Issue:

Letter from the President
Election of New Board
Members
Upcoming Events

Chairman of the Board

John F. Burns

President

William Schramm

Past President

Harvey Hohausner

Directors

Corey Beaubien
Craig Brown
Linda Brown
Michael F. Jennings
Justin LaRocca
Shane LaRocca
Denise MacKinnon
Lon D. Makanoff
Jim Marleau
Tom Osborne
Elaine Shenkosky
Danielle A. Smith

Executive Director

Anne Gerard

Emeritus Director

Jack Quick

Advisory Board

William F. Burger
Dr. Diane Chugani
Dr. Harry Chugani
Sheila Diaz
Dennis J. Flynn
Paul Gross
Sally Kelly
Carl Shullman
Alice Wangbichler
Bob Wangbichler

P.O. Box 904
Birmingham, MI 48012
248.588.2111
248.588.2150 (fax)
info@homesforautism.org
www.homesforautism.org

I am delighted to announce that William (Bill) Schramm was elected as President of Homes for Autism at our Annual Board Meeting held on March 11th. He joined the HFA board in 1998. Bill has been a patent attorney for 40 years and, in 2008, retired from full-time to part-time practice of law. With his wife Judy, Bill has three children and five grandchildren, and has a direct connection with autism through his family. Bill's legal and management background, coupled with his extensive experience with HFA, provides a solid foundation for his leadership.

John Burns, Chairman of the Board

Dear Friends,

I'm sure many of you join me in eagerly anticipating the end of winter and look forward to a spring season full of hope, life and new beginnings.

I begin my new appointment with grateful respect for the leadership of our recent president, Harvey Hohausner. He has stepped down as president but, fortunately for us, he has agreed to remain on the board. I offer our thanks to Harvey for his time, talent and dedication to our mission.

Also at our annual board meeting, we welcomed four new board members whose profiles appear on page two: Corey Beaubien, Craig Brown, Linda Brown and Jim Marleau.

Homes for Autism is hosting our Annual Irish Pub Night this Sunday, March 29th. It's not too late to make a reservation; we welcome guests at the door. We look forward to the success of two new fund-raisers this year: "The Run for Autism," scheduled for Sunday, May 17th, and "Music in the Barn," to be held on Saturday, June 20th (see page two for further details). Please mark your calendars and join us for one of these special events.

Ours is a unique organization that I believe meets the special needs of our residents and their families. Let me say what an honor it will be to continue on this pathway and personally contribute to Homes for Autism's aspirations and efforts.

With all best wishes,

Bill Schramm, President

****IRISH PUB NIGHT – MARCH 29 – 6:00-9:00 p.m. FOUR GREEN FIELDS****
Northwood Shopping Center, 13 Mile & Woodward



ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At the **Homes for Autism Annual Board Meeting** on March 11, 2009, Corey Beaubien, Craig Brown, Linda Brown and Jim Marleau were elected to the board of directors. We are so grateful to have such an impressive group of talented and caring individuals join us in our mission to *provide and maintain houses for adults with developmental disabilities!*

Since 2002, Corey Beaubien has worked at the intellectual property law firm of Reising Ethington PC. Prior to his current position, Corey worked as an engineer at Visteon and ANR Properties. He received his B.S.M.E. from Kettering University (formerly G.M.I. Engineering & Management Institute) and his juris doctor from Wayne State University Law School. Corey's charitable background includes working on homes for *Habitat for Humanity*, and volunteering for the *Grace Center of Hope* in Pontiac. His inspiration comes from his nephew who has Down syndrome, which prompted him to spend more time helping others.

Linda Ronan Brown is a full-time mother and advocate for her sons, Ross, 21, and Bryan, 18 – both of whom have autism. She currently serves on the board of directors of the *Autism Society of America – Oakland County Chapter* and previously served as a member of the *Oakland Schools Parent Advisory Committee*. Linda received her bachelor's of business administration degree from the University of Michigan, and a juris doctor degree from the University of Kentucky. In 2008 she planned and executed Ross and Bryan's move into a home of their own, along with a roommate. Linda has been married to Craig Brown for 28 years and counting!

Craig R. Brown is a successful financial executive and consultant. Craig's sons, Ross, 21, and Bryan, 18 – both have autism. Having previously served on *Homes for Autism's* board of directors and, more recently, its advisory board, Craig is returning as a valued board member. In the past, Craig served on the board of *Goodwill Industries of Northeast Wisconsin* (early childhood programs for special needs children). Craig received his bachelor's of business administration degree from the University of Michigan and a master's of business administration degree from Michigan State University. Craig is active in supporting fund-raising efforts for people with autism and their families. Craig has been married to Linda Ronan Brown for 28 years.

Jim Marleau has been a resident of Orion Township for 25 years. He was a salesman and owned a leather goods shop in Orion Township before being elected treasurer in Orion Township. After holding the position of treasurer for eight years, Jim was elected to the Michigan State House as a representative of Orion, Addison and Brandon townships, and is currently serving his third term. Jim and his wife Thia have two grown children.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 17 – The Run for Autism

Homes for Autism is partnering with Oakland University's autism program, **Oakland University's Center for Autism Research, Education and Support (OUCARES)**, to host a 5k walk, 5k run and 10k run on the OU campus, to raise awareness and support of **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**. For more information on sponsoring, participating or volunteering in the Run for Autism, please visit: www.the-run-for-autism.org.

Register early and receive a t-shirt to commemorate your support and participation. The team captain with the largest team or whose team raises the most in donations will win a dinner with **Joey Travolta**, entertainer, actor and director, who hosts the annual OUCARES film camp. Please share the news of our "Run for Autism" with family, friends and co-workers to ensure the success of this event. If you are not able to walk, run or wheel, we welcome volunteers or a monetary donation.

Saturday, June 20 – Music in the Barn

We anticipate a very unique evening with our hosts, the **Strubler Family**, who converted their Oakland Township barn to hold music concerts during the milder weather months. Entertainment will be provided by the group, **Brazil and Beyond**, the 2004 Detroit Music Awards winner in the "Outstanding World Recording" category, playing an energetic blend of Brazilian, American pop and Beatles standards in the classic style of Brazil.

Wine, beer and hors d'oeuvres will be served and an Art Auction will be featured. The capacity for this event is only 80 persons, so we suggest you **make reservations early by calling 248-588-2111**.

Your support of one or all of our events is particularly critical during this time of economic hardship. Homes for Autism receives no state or federal funding – our only hope to continue in our efforts to grow at the rate of diagnosed autism depends on your contributions