Who We Are Says A Lot About Where We Are Going

It’s important to recognize the contributions and experience gained from working with individuals who have dedicated a lot of time in making the Lake County Board of DD/Deepwood the premier program it is. Recently, the Human Service Department, with Superintendent Elfie Roman, coordinated a surprise “unveiling” to acknowledge the staff that have contributed many years of excellent service. Names of each staff member were engraved on a brass nameplate to be hung on the walls commemorating those who were a significant part of the history of Deepwood. We thank our Broadening Abilities staff for their persistence and commitment. It is with our senior staff and Broadening Abilities individuals, we dedicate our first issue of “The Write Stuff.”

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

The emphasis is on CommUNITY

“People with and without disabilities working going to school, playing, and participating, and having fun in their communities together”.

“We’re all able to do anything!”

“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

—Maya Angelou

Broadening Abilities senior staff pictured below from back to front: Paul Velikonya, Dawn Siers, Superintendent Elfie Roman, Ed Krause, Michele Richter, Denice Winters, Jan Bates, Mike Razzante, Anna Lowthian, Kim Johnson, Mary Padden and Sue Amiott. Missing from the picture include the following staff: Tina Piscalko, Patty LaForce, Karen Smith and Jim Whiting.
Broadening Abilities – Expanding skills through learning, growing, & fun.
There is something to be said about people who spend their years devoted to one place — where they make an impact on those around them.

Meet Colleen and Roger, two individuals from Habilitation 2. Colleen has been in adult services for 45 years and Roger for approximately 44 years.

Both have had time at the workshops from the onset. Now, they enjoy quieter relaxing days at Broadening Abilities.

Anna Lowthian & Paul Velikonya have had many years serving in the residence and at Vocational Guidance Center (VGC). Both enjoy their days working with MH and Habilitation individuals. Paul has been at LCBDD for 35 years while Anna has been here for 33 years. These two staff are excellent role models and good friends to all.

Broadening Abilities is honored to have such knowledgeable and experienced staff.
Meet Anthony

Anthony recently shaved his head to raise money for childhood cancer research on March 16 at the 2018 Case Western Reserve University & UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital Shave it Off Event. Anthony fought cancer in 2016 and has been doing awesome since. Anthony inspires us all to give back and support others. Monies raised from our chili cook-off will go to St. Baldrick’s Foundation.

Sowing the seeds of kindness goes along way & creates a positive environment for everyone to build on and enjoy. The individuals noted have gone to great lengths to make the days better for others.

Stephen is always there to help with bus duty, greeting everyone with a smile and a kind word. If your having a bad day, go see Nettie. She gives the best hugs! The halls at BA come alive, thanks to Kim’s creative flair. Our garden’s could be in Home & Garden’s due to Karen’s green thumb. Tim & Bruce are the fun guys, getting individuals out and about. No one does it better than Melvin, singing the National Anthem and playing the piano for all to enjoy. Jane always the Olympic coach, coaching new substitute staff and making each group the winning team. Mary coordinating community trips to build on self-esteem with visits to the hair & nails salon, and mall. Sweet treats from Marks mom bring smiles & brighten up our days. Denise has brought in great community friends to meet and greet the individuals. Heidi donates part of her days providing massage therapy to our individuals in MH. Darlene has been trying different things by getting individuals in wheelchairs into walkers many for the first time. Mrs. Dormer has made bibs, quilts, and now curtains to accommodate our individuals and rooms. Wendy & Chris are always waving, smiling, and greeting staff with a handshake or hug. Mrs. Caffey & Mrs. D. have kindly donated games, activities, decorations, and provided snacks and treats to the individuals in Hab 1. Pete captures the attention of our individuals while reading books and stories that are funny and interesting. Mama Roberto's donated delicious pizza for various occasions. Our nurses are always there to give an extra helping hand. Sadie the Therapy Dog likes being petted by our individuals and has made many friends. In the memory of our beloved Kevin Dorr, Broadening Abilities received donations to our fundraising account—that of which will help many people. Larry the Sax Man has contributed his time, serenading the crowds at Broadening Abilities with his gift of music. Barb, always a champion of an excellent attitude, she teaches us all everyday, how to make the best of each day.

The Broadening Abilities family is always ready to give—whether it is donating food for Harvest for the Hungry, donating pet items for the Humane Society, contributing baskets or “spirits” for the Spirit tree, or supporting a fundraiser. Thank you for what you do. These are just a few examples of the difference people make, all in the spirit of DD Awareness.

“Do things for people, not because of who they are or what they do in return, but because of who you are.” - Mother Teresa