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**PLACES, Inc.**  
Quality Housing and Support Services for the Mentally Ill

### Happy Birthday!

11/26 - Mike D. Sorry we missed you!  
12/13 - Andria F. 01/11 - Ron H.  
12/23 - Michelle U. 01/12 - Isaac C.  
12/24 - Matthew H. 01/13 - Brianna T.  
12/24 - Delilah T. 01/20 - Stephanie W.  
12/27 - Bruce W. 01/26 - Angel S.  
01/01 - Jackie W. 02/02 - Fran H.  
01/04 - Concetta W. 02/07 - Judith P.  
02/23 - Byron B.

### Happy Anniversary!

11/07 - Danita G. (2) Sorry we missed you!  
12/04 - Quentin S. (1) 01/22 - Tameka G. (2)  
12/07 - Fran H. (4) 01/22 - Nicole S. (1)  
12/10 - Julie C. (1) 01/24 - Andria F. (1)  
01/02 - Michelle U. (1) 02/04 - Tanisha D. (1)  
01/10 - Belinda B. (4) 02/07 - Janae D. (2)  
01/10 - Letitia S. (2) 02/09 - Rob J. (16)  
01/13 - Isaac C. (3) 02/13 - Tracey J. (14)  
01/16 - Barb S. (7) 02/13 - Angel S. (1)  
02/26 - Teresa D. (8)

Personal care  
Life skills  
Advocacy  
Community  
Education  
Service

### Vision Statement

PLACES will become the statewide leader in quality housing and quality housing support services for the mentally ill.

### Mission Statement

The mission of PLACES is to use best practices to promote and enhance the community living skills and to provide quality housing options to the disenfranchised who are mentally ill and/or homeless in order to promote independence.

### Values

- ♦ To promote individual potential
- ♦ To provide a safe environment for all to grow
- ♦ To work together with the community to provide a humanistic approach to meeting people's needs
- ♦ To operate with respect, dignity and compassion for all
- ♦ To provide a family atmosphere for residents, clients and staff
- ♦ To follow through with all commitments
- ♦ To remain focused on the people we serve

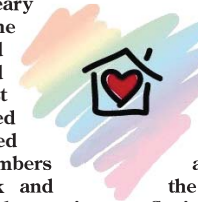
Serving Montgomery County since 1988.



### Annual Harvest and Holiday Parties!

By Judith Patterson

After a week of cold, damp and dreary weather, October 31st, the day of the Harvest party was clear, sunny and beautiful. The big wind storm caused Sinclair Park to be closed for the rest of the year, so the venue was moved to Madison Lakes. About a hundred attendees, including Board members Andy Storar, Gerald Vonderbrink and Mary Robinson enjoyed the food, the music and the costume contest. Participants were able to take a walk around the lake, play corn hole and try to break open the piñata. Roy Craig and Steve Brinkerhoff brought a guitar and banjo and jammed with SLP client Chris W and ACF resident Art W.



Roy Craig opened the evening by recognizing PLACES, Inc.'s Board of Trustees. Among the Board Members in attendance were Mary Robinson, Ralph Gitzinger accompanied by his wife Elizabeth, Pat Donnelly, Eva Walker and her husband John, Zerella Roberts and Gerald Vonderbrink. Roy also thanked the members of the Heart and Home Legacy Society and three donors who underwrote a portion of the costs of this annual event. This year's contributors were Altick and Corwin, McGowan-Brabender and Centerville Pharmacy.

Organized by staff members Irene Alexander, Vivian Moody, Kashauna Shepherd, Fran Hutson and Wilma Woodfork with Rita Morrow as announcer, the fashion show featured eleven PLACES clients and residents in their favorite clothes. The participants were: Donald S., William G., B.J. D., Debbie R., Kim M., Danny P., Leonard R., Valery B., Jowanna P., and Lisa J. The organizers gave each participant a red rose to thank them.

Every costume was original and innovative, but someone had to win the costume contest. The winners were Cutest Costume - Kathleen C., Scariest Costume - Christopher A., Most Original Costume - Stefanie K. Some staff members really entered the spirit of the event, particularly the ghoulish Mike Drennan and the monstrous Leann Click.

Sinclair Community College's Ponitz Center again served as the setting for PLACES Annual Holiday Party. This year's event was held on December 11, 2008. Nearly two hundred people filled the Ponitz Center for dinner, dancing and the second annual fashion show. As residents, tenants and clients arrived, they signed large thank you cards, which were later given to Roy Craig and Board President Andy Storar.

The rest of the evening was set aside for dancing, some karaoke and general socializing.

It takes the efforts of the entire PLACES' staff to organize the Holiday Party and the other events - the Recognition Reception, the Company Picnic and the Harvest Party. Their work is always evident. THANK YOU, PLACES STAFF!

Pictured from left to right:

(1.) Staff members Leann C., Ron H., and Nicole S. show off their costumes for Harvest Party 2008! (2.) Roy Craig watches as SLP client Chris W. and ACF resident Art W. jam on their guitars.



## Executive Director's Corner 2008, going, going, gone!

By Roy Craig

The year, 2008, will live in infamy in PLACES history and will always be known as the year of the flood and the hurricane. These two events had tremendous impact on the residents and staff at two of PLACES four Adult Care Facilities (ACF). On Martin Luther King Day a large water pipe that was a part of the sprinkler system at Marty's House burst and flooded the home. The work to dry the house, deconstruct the damaged areas and reconstruct almost half the home took over six weeks. The residents had to be relocated to three suites at a local hotel and of course, the staff went with them. Then in September the remnants of hurricane Gustav blew through our community and as a result Randolph House was without electricity for almost two weeks. For the second time in a year, residents and staff from an ACF had to be relocated for an extended period of time. In both of these crises the staff at these two homes, and many other direct care and administrative staff, performed well above and beyond the normal day to day expectations to make sure the residents were made to feel as comfortable and supported as possible.

There were many noteworthy accomplishments this year for PLACES residents, clients and tenants. All PLACES service lines strive to foster greater autonomy and independence for the residents, clients, and tenants. Every day there is an expectation for progress towards mutually established goals. It is a cause for celebration when these expectations help people become more independent, autonomous and integrated into the community. In 2008, two ACF residents moved into independent living arrangements in the community, eighteen Supportive Living clients graduated from the program and one Permanent Supportive Housing-Housing First tenant moved into his own apartment in the community. The day to day progress and accomplishments of the people served are the reasons PLACES exists.

Since PLACES owns four homes, maintenance and capital improvement are ongoing issues. To this end, PLACES received two large capital grants from the Ohio Department of Mental Health specifically for environmental improvements to ACFs serving mentally ill adults. The goals of the projects were similar, better environment for the residents and staff and reduced utility costs. PLACES installed

a geo-thermal heating and air conditioning unit which replaced an aged oil furnace at the Randolph House ACF. This geothermal unit will greatly reduce PLACES long term utility costs. In addition, the staff and residents are very happy with the improved heating and hot water. At another ACF, Gascho Gardens, PLACES received a grant to install a new central heating and air conditioning system. Gascho Gardens has been heated by a large boiler system and cooled by the use of many window air conditioners. This resulted in inefficient heating and cooling and difficulty regulating the temperature in individual apartments. The new system will remedy these problems making Gascho Gardens more comfortable for the residents and will reduce the utility costs.

I also am reminded of the funny and/or unusual events that have occurred this year. The funniest and most unusual was the call I received one October day from Ms. Jones, the Assistant Director of Adult Care Facilities who was at Marty's House at the time. She called an in her usual understated crisis mode voice and said, "Hi Roy, we smell gas in the house so we have evacuated the staff and residents and called the fire department; "anonymous" was just taken to the hospital and how do I get the Mexicans off our roof." There were Mexican laborers putting a new roof on Marty's House and Ms. Jones wanted to alert them to danger and ask them come down off the roof to safety. My very average tourist Spanish was of little help. It was just another day at PLACES.

In looking ahead to 2009, I am confident that PLACES will continue to provide exceptional services. I am ever hopeful the economy will start to improve. PLACES staff and the homeless community anxiously anticipate the opening of our third Permanent Supportive Housing-Housing First program. This new program is scheduled to open this fall (2009) and will provide a home for eight mentally ill homeless adults.

PLACES residents, clients, tenants, volunteers and staff have much to be thankful for. Thank you all for your support.

## Winter Safety Tips

Provided by: Wilma Woodfork

- ✦ Winter is here, and as always we wish to remind you of a few safety precautions to help get you started in this New Year.
- ✦ Dress for the weather wearing appropriate clothing, thermal wear, waterproof insulated gloves/boots, etc.
- ✦ Shovel snow, but don't overexert yourself - know when to stop.
- ✦ Dispense salt on walkways, and driveways.
- ✦ Carry lock de-icer.
- ✦ Winterize your vehicle:
- ✦ Check fluids (antifreeze, windshield wiper fluid, etc.)
- ✦ Check tires, wipers, battery, brakes, and lights.
- ✦ Obey speed limits.
- ✦ Remember to drive cautiously.



*"We encourage PLACES' employees to think safety first everyday, to submit your safety suggestions that will make our agency as a whole to become a safe & healthier place to live and work."*

Wilma Woodfork, Safety & Health Chair

## Happy New Year!

### Iced Molasses Cookies from Judith Patterson

(Makes three dozen cookies)~

2 cups all purpose flour	<i>topping</i>
2 teaspoons baking soda	¾ cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon	1 tablespoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground ginger	
¼ teaspoon nutmeg	<i>icing</i>
1 cup granulated sugar	3 cups powdered sugar
¾ cup (1 ½ sticks) butter, softened	6 tablespoons lemon juice*
1 large egg	1 tablespoon butter, softened
¼ cup molasses	

1. Mix together flour, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg.
  2. Beat together sugar and butter at medium speed until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and molasses.
  3. At low speed, beat flour mixture into butter mixture, ½ cup at a time, until soft dough forms. Chill for 4 hours.\*\*
  4. Preheat oven to 350°F.
  5. Pinch off pieces of dough; roll each piece into a 1 ½ inch ball \*\*\*
  6. Place cookies, 2 inches apart, on ungreased cookie sheets.
  7. To prepare topping, mix together granulated sugar and cinnamon. Using a flat-bottomed glass, dipped in sugar mixture, flatten each ball slightly.
  8. Bake cookies until set and just browned, 10 to 12 minutes. Transfer baking sheets to wire racks to cool slightly. Transfer cookies to racks to cool.
  9. To prepare icing, mix together confectioners' sugar, lemon juice and butter.
  10. Spread icing evenly over tops of cookies. Let stand to set.
- \*\* overnight is better.  
\*\*\* pinching is easier with cool damp hands

## Satisfaction Surveys

In the FY 2008 3rd and 4th quarter client satisfaction surveys, these staff members were singled out for their service:

Irene Alexander  
Steve Brinkerhoff  
Lisa Butler  
Mike Drennan  
Wanda Fisher  
Janice Meadows  
Rita Morrow  
Vivian Moody  
Anne Tyree  
Kashauna Shepherd  
Lovella Wade  
Donna Williams