



# dear friends



As you read and look through this year's Annual Report, you'll see the many positive transitions that continue to take place at both our residential facility and developmental training program. This year especially, we have moved forward with increased use of technology in both resident-related as well as administrative areas for quality and efficiency purposes.

- Beginning in July of this year, we are bringing in-house virtually all of the accounting and payroll services. This will provide for much more improved office functions by providing efficient and timely reports.
- Additional computers and internet connections now provide residents the ability to communicate with friends and relatives throughout the world with the help of the staff.
- Staff members are now able to communicate with each other throughout the agency at any time and from wherever they are at.
- We have received a \$10,000 grant from the Grainger Foundation toward the \$30,000 cost of installing CareTracker, an assignment and documentation system that will be used by all staff directly working with our clients at both sites to ensure specific resident-related care activities are carried out 24/7.

The most significant development that will potentially have an impact on both the individuals we serve and the agency as well is the Ligas lawsuit between the State of Illinois and various advocacy groups, which was settled with a consent decree this summer. It promises to have a major systemic impact on how and where individuals with intellectual disabilities receive services in the future.

Hopefully, many of the thousands on the Illinois prioritization of unmet needs waiting list (PUNS) who live at home will, over the next six years, get access to the specific programs and services they require to function at their optimal level no matter what that includes. Others in larger ICFDD facilities like Riverside Foundation will have the choice to move to community integrated living arrangements (CILA's) during the same time frame. To date, only 325 of 6,000 adults living in large facilities throughout Illinois have indicated that they choose to make that move. Whatever choice the guardians and individuals at Riverside Foundation make, we will be there to assist them in implementing their decision.



As of January 2012, Deborah Rogers will become Riverside Foundation's new Executive Director as I am retiring. I will personally continue to advocate on behalf of individuals with intellectual disabilities. I was fortunate to have been chosen 38 years ago to lead this wonderful organization and even luckier to have had the support of the board and auxiliary, the families, the staff, and you ~ the Riverside Foundation Community ~ all these years. Looking at the progress we have made in the last three years on many fronts, I know you will agree that we are fortunate to be able to pass

the baton to Deborah. I know going forward you will continue to support her and the staff in continuing the important mission of our agency.

Sincerely,

Pete Mulé  
Executive Director

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Pete Mulé  
Executive Director

Deborah Rogers, LCSW  
Associate Director



### A Message from Susie Lees President, Board of Directors

After 38 years of outstanding service to the Riverside Foundation, Pete Mulé, Executive Director, will be retiring on December 31, 2011. During Pete's tenure, he has provided exceptional leadership to the agency's Board, staff, residents and their families and the many volunteers that have served the agency. Throughout his career, Pete has been a change agent and a champion to individuals with developmental disabilities and the agencies that serve them. He is passionate, caring and thoughtful, and we will miss him. Pete will continue to work with the agency on a part-time basis. We congratulate Pete on his many contributions to Riverside and wish him and his wife, Joyce, all the best in retirement.



## Riverside Foundation: Who We Are



The Riverside Foundation is a not-for-profit, community-based organization serving adults with moderate to severe developmental disabilities through the provision of high-quality residential care in Lincolnshire, Illinois and individualized developmental training services in Vernon Hills, Illinois. Since 1976, we have supported more than 400 adults with developmental disabilities.

### Our mission includes:

- Creating a caring and respectful home environment
- Developing independent living skills
- Providing nursing supports
- Providing educational, developmental, and recreational activities
- Developing interpersonal and social skills
- Encouraging participants in work activities

### Our values:

- To treat individuals and their families with dignity, respect & understanding.
- To ensure that individuals have access to choices that promote their health, happiness & independence.
- To work in partnership with family, volunteers & the community.
- To support our employees, recognize contributions & provide a professional work environment.
- To strengthen families by facilitating peace of mind that special loved ones are healthy & happy.
- To provide quality educational, developmental & leisure activities for all individuals.
- To seek out & advocate for meaningful educational & work opportunities which promote self-sufficiency & community involvement.



The Riverside Foundation is a member of the Greater Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce and the Green Oaks, Libertyville, Mundelein, and Vernon Hills Area Chamber of Commerce. Funding for our programs and services is provided by the Illinois Department of Human Services and through donations from individuals, businesses, and community organizations.

The Riverside Foundation does not discriminate against anyone due to race, creed, or color in providing its programs. The agency is licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health and is certified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as an Intermediate Care Facility for Developmentally Disabled Adults. Riverside Developmental Services is licensed by the State and the United States Department of Labor as a Work Activity Center and certified by the Illinois Department of Human Services as a Developmental Training Program.

# embracing technology



Over the years, hundreds of lives have been impacted by the Riverside Foundation - the lives of residents and clients, but also volunteers, Board and staff members, corporate and community partners, and more. Some things like our mission have stayed the same, but some things have changed - like our increased use of technology. As Riverside Foundation continues to infuse its operations with more technology, it produces a ripple effect on our entire organization and beyond. Computers and internet access now connect everyone in our organization and our reach continues to grow externally to places as far away as Israel! Families are better able to reach both staff members and residents, which has become essential in a 24/7 operation like Riverside Foundation.

The Riverside Foundation started implementing Computer IPPs (Individual Program Plans) with residents two years ago, and the addition of iPads and more computers dedicated to resident use in the common area has made the technology more accessible. The computers and iPads enable residents to communicate more clearly with staff members, their peers, and others.

Residents train with a Speech Pathologist and an Assistive Technology Specialist to learn how to use communication software that enables them to express their needs, wants, and feelings. Through the use of adaptive software created for individuals with physical and developmental disabilities, residents are learning about cause and effect, money skills, and how to tell time. Residents who are able to communicate verbally but have limited writing skills can now write letters and emails with the assistance of word prediction software and programs, which allow them to write documents without having full spelling capability.

The technology also reaches residents who cannot access computers in a typical way. For example, residents with hand-to-eye coordination issues and/or other fine motor challenges are able to use an adaptive track ball mouse or single switch instead of a keyboard.

Residents also use computers and iPads for entertainment and enjoyment. They listen to music, watch videos, read or listen to the news, keep track of their favorite sports teams, and play computer games. Some residents even use iPads to order meals at restaurants while out with their families or Riverside Foundation staff.

The Riverside Foundation continues to look for ways that technology can enhance our operations. One example of this is our 2012 goal of acquiring a CareTracker computerized documentation system for tracking our residents' daily progress, health, and activities. This will decrease staff time in completing documentation resulting in additional interaction time with our residents. This is the next step in our effective use of technology.

Technology provides new avenues of learning, communication & entertainment for our residents.





## Erin's Story

Erin, who resides at Riverside Foundation, has difficulty at times with adapting to new situations or environments. Erin is learning to use her iPad to express her needs, emotions, and feelings. She uses specialized software to create a sentence and have the iPad repeat it out loud to the person with whom she wants to communicate. Being able to express herself helps Erin make choices independently and better convey her point of view. Erin uses her iPad to read the news, check the weather, and play games, which allows her to explore things she finds interesting as well as expand her knowledge and leisure interests.



**"The iPad eases Erin's communication difficulties, but also empowers her and improves her self-esteem."**

**– Monika,  
Assistant Training Director**



## Michael's Story

Michael uses an iPad to communicate with Riverside Foundation staff and residents, as well as family and friends. Michael visits his parents every weekend, but contact with other family and friends previously only happened during holiday visits and special gatherings. Now Michael emails and exchanges pictures on a weekly basis with family and friends in the Chicago area, New York, and even with his sister and aunt in Israel. He has stored more than a hundred pictures on his iPad and is proud to show photos of

his nieces to staff and friends at the Riverside Foundation.

Michael uses the calendar on his iPad to keep track of special events, birthdays, outings, and all Cubs games. He stores and listens to his country music collection, watches country music videos, and reads and listens to the news. Michael also uses a doodle app to write messages.

**"We've seen many positive changes in Michael's behavior. He exhibits less aggression and frustration, which was mostly coming from his communication difficulties. His iPad has truly enhanced his communication."**

**– Monika, Assistant Training Director**

Several other residents are learning to use the iPads to improve their ability to communicate and interact with others.

# fostering independence



## Residential Services

The Riverside Foundation residential facility is a vibrant special needs community with a supportive atmosphere emphasizing individual autonomy and professional care. We currently serve 97 adults in our residential program.

Our residential program is specifically tailored to each resident's unique needs and individual strengths to help clients grow towards greater independence. As part of our residential program, we provide professional intake, assessment and supervisory services, individualized care plans, structured activities, and 24-hour nursing. Our program integrates social services, specialized therapies, recreation, and medical services to meet any physical, emotional, and psychological challenges facing our residents.

The Riverside Foundation is a home in every sense of the word, and we consider our residents, family members, and staff to be members of the Riverside Foundation family. Over half of Riverside Foundation's residents have lived with us for 20 years or longer. We are committed to providing an enriching living and learning environment built upon compassion, respect, and support of individual choice and self-sufficiency. Our work is truly rewarding when we see our residents continue to grow in independence and abilities. Our residents are part of the local community with frequent outings to restaurants, theaters, stores, laundromats, and local events throughout the year. This past year two groups of residents have started to utilize the community bank by depositing their paychecks and withdrawing money. Additional new programs include:



**DESENSITIZATION PROGRAM** This new program was developed to help residents complete all medical appointments. Riverside Foundation works with residents who refused medical tests and check-ups due to fear and anxiety. A step-by-step process has been implemented in cooperation with doctors involving gradual activities such as driving past the doctor's office, sitting in the office, and watching videos of medical appointments. We have found great success with the program in helping alleviate residents' concerns and making them more comfortable with medical appointments.



**ART THERAPY** Artistic self-expression facilitated by our Art Therapy program helps our residents develop social skills, reduce stress, and increase self-esteem and self-awareness. The creative process of art-making improves and enhances physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Our art therapist conducts both group classes for all residents as well as one-on-one sessions for residents who are in need of suitable sensory stimulation and self-expression with individual attention. Our residents thoroughly enjoy working with our art therapist and are proud of their creations. Our Art Therapy program has brought joy and a lot of smiles to the Riverside Foundation.



## Developmental Services

Through Riverside Developmental Services (RDS) we provide opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities to develop skills and assume responsibilities for real-life work. RDS currently supports 120 individuals with disabilities from the Riverside Foundation, area organizations such as a residential facility in Lake Zurich, and others who live at home. The program supports these individuals with a structured learning & work environment. Programs focus on developing each individual's skills and

unique talents in an atmosphere of choice, self worth, and accomplishment.

Work is completed for a variety of companies and involves such tasks as assembly and disassembly, labeling, packaging, sorting, collating, complete mailing services, and warehouse storage, pick-up, and delivery services. For more information on subcontracting RDS for projects, please contact Doris Litwin at 847-793-0010 or [doris.rdsmarketing@yahoo.com](mailto:doris.rdsmarketing@yahoo.com).

"Riverside Developmental Services assembles complex transmission valve body kits for us on a regular basis. These jobs require great attention to detail. Riverside always delivers our kits complete and correct. Also, they are able to turn around these kits very quickly! I am very satisfied with Riverside Developmental Services."

-- William Colleran, ZF Services North America, LLC

# community connections

The Riverside Foundation is extremely grateful to have amazing support from the community which enables our residents to enjoy a variety of activities and connect with the community. The following organizations, groups, and volunteers have been our exceptional partners:



## **Special Recreation Association of Central Lake County (SRACLCLC)**

offers special events and ongoing programs designed for individuals with disabilities. Through the support of the Village of Lincolnshire, we are able to utilize this resource and pay in-district fees enabling our residents to participate in activities such as bowling, bocce ball, basketball, crafts, theater performance, and more throughout the year.

**Center for Enriched Living** in Northbrook offers programs for individuals with disabilities such as Sunday afternoon cooking, games, current events, and community outings.

**Adlai E. Stevenson High School** hosts numerous holiday dances for our residents throughout the year. The Riverside Foundation residents also support Stevenson students by attending school sporting events. Students from many different groups coordinate Project Dance, a major fundraiser which raised over \$43,000 for the Riverside Foundation this year.

**Lincolnshire Garden Club** plants and maintains our beautiful gardens every season. We appreciate the donations of time and talent from the club that keeps our grounds looking fresh and beautiful.

**Boy Scouts - Northeastern Council of Illinois** visit the Riverside Foundation monthly and involve our residents in games and activities. The boy scouts also host residents at their day camp for fishing and other outdoor sports every year. These activities always prove to be wonderful learning experiences for both our residents and the boy scouts.

**Camp Red Leaf** is operated by the Jewish Council for Youth Services and serves individuals with developmental disabilities. Camp Red Leaf hosted several groups of residents for one week of swimming, boating, campfires, and more.

**House of Hope K-9 Rescue** is a not-for-profit organization located in Gurnee which brings trained therapy dogs to visit with our residents several times per month. Our residents have enjoyed visiting with the dogs and always look forward to their visits.



**Volunteers** add so much to the Riverside Foundation. Some volunteers are paired with residents who do not have family contact to make sure they know others from outside the facility care about them. Others bring activities such as yoga or crafts to broaden our residents' horizons. Volunteers also participate in our Human Rights Committee and Resident Council. We greatly appreciate the efforts and care of all our volunteers.





# volunteering at its best



Auxiliary members Ann Jarvie, Leslie Munger, Robin Coseo and Karen Bruns at Winter Gala

The Riverside Foundation Auxiliary is comprised of dedicated and caring volunteers united to support the clients of the Riverside Foundation and advance the goals of the organization. Through community fundraising and client activities, the Auxiliary advances and promotes the welfare of the Riverside Foundation.

Funds raised by the Auxiliary in 2010-2011, were used to purchase computers and iPads for residents and new vital signs testing equipment. Funding also paid for summer camp tuition for clients who could not otherwise attend, recreational activities, lighting upgrades in residents' rooms, and other general operating expenses.

## Annual Winter Gala

This year's theme was "Kaleidoscope" - Reflecting the beauty and diversity involved in serving those with developmental disabilities in our community. The use of hand-held BidPal devices and associated Leader Boards in the ballroom facilitated the bidding and checkout process for the live and silent auctions. The Gala's "Fund-A-Need" request raised money for needed roof repairs to the Riverside Foundation residence which will be completed this year.

## "Take a Walk Down Candy Cane Lane"

In this year's Annual Holiday Housewalk, four homeowners opened their homes for viewing of their enchanting holiday decorations. The walk began and ended at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit with refreshments and festivities.

## Client Activities

- Fourth of July Parade and Picnic - An auxiliary member volunteered her home and the members hosted the Fourth of July luncheon for all residents and staff. The residents watched the parade from the front yard which is located along the parade path. It is a wonderful annual tradition.
- Pumpkin Decorating - Residents decorated pumpkins and enjoyed Halloween treats with Auxiliary members.
- Exercise Classes - Auxiliary members encouraged clients to stay active by joining them during dance exercise time.
- Lunch Dates - Auxiliary members took residents out for fun one-on-one lunch outings.
- Birthday Remembrances - The Auxiliary celebrated each resident's birthday with a special gift.



Membership in the Riverside Foundation Auxiliary is open to anyone interested in assisting the Auxiliary in its mission to support the Riverside Foundation. Contact the Auxiliary for more information at 847-634-3973 or [www.riversidefoundation.net](http://www.riversidefoundation.net).

## auxiliary membership

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The Riverside Foundation Auxiliary's past president Ann Jarvie was named "volunteer of the year."



## honorariums

**In Honor of Karen Bruns:**  
Michael & Elizabeth Greenberg

**In Honor of Richard & Judy Crook:**  
Michael & Deborah Crook

**In Honor of Frances Galluzzo:**  
The Knights of Columbus, North American Council #4338 (Saint Juliana Parish)

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William & Therese Breen  
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**In Honor of Debbie O'Reilley:**  
Joseph & Laureen Demus

**In Honor of Sasha Pais:**  
Ashok & Philomena Pais

**In Honor of the Riverside Foundation Board Members:**  
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**In Honor of John Roth:**  
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**In Honor of Dr. David Simon:**  
JoAnn LeVine

**In Honor of Ruth Ann Simpson:**  
Eddie Mae Ross

**In Honor of the Wolfe Family:**  
David Wolfe

**In Honor of Richard Wolin:**  
Pamela Weiland

**In Honor of David Wood's Birthday:**  
Robert & Elizabeth Wood



## memorials

**In Memory of Mike Brown:**  
Dan & Pam Loewenstein  
Joel & Marcia Resnick  
Riverside Foundation Auxiliary

**In Memory of Ann Crossman:**  
John Crossman  
Thomas & Pamela Ely  
Michael & Ellen McGrath

**In Memory of Marcy Fisher:**  
JoAnn LeVine

**In Memory of Chic Freund:**  
Ann Freund

**In Memory of Monika Gerent:**  
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**In Memory of Ida Grossman:**  
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Robert & Kristina Malandrucolo  
Paul Patt

**In Memory of Edwin Hakala:**  
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**In Memory of Stuart Harris:**  
JoAnn LeVine

**In Memory of Tom Harris:**  
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**In Memory of Virginia Jarvie:**  
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**In Memory of Pearl Malk:**  
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**In Memory of Catherine McLaughlin:**  
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**In Memory of Molly Sale:**  
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**In Memory of Carolyn R. Smith:**  
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**In Memory of Ron Smith:**  
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**In Memory of Bernard Snyder:**  
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**In Memory of Ella Bergstein Snyder:**  
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**In Memory of Jerome Soltan:**  
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Pamela Weiland  
Richard & Karen Weiland

**In Memory of John Witthoft:**  
The Knights of Columbus, North American Council #4338 (Saint Juliana Parish)

**In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Wolin:**  
Pamela Weiland

**In Memory of Robert Worobey:**  
The Knights of Columbus, North American Council #4338 (Saint Juliana Parish)

**In Memory of Geraldine Wruk's Mother, Aunts and Cousins:**  
Geraldine Wruk



# thank you



Although every effort has been made to list all of our contributors, we apologize for any errors that may occur. Thank you for your understanding and generous contributions.

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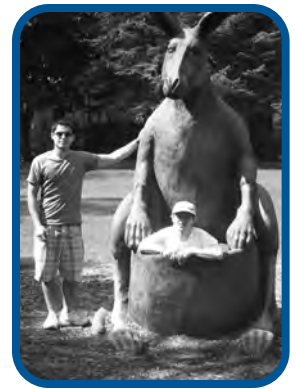


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