



C.A.R.E.S.

Empowering individuals with developmental disabilities to connect with their community.

NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2015

Volume 2 Issue 1

Guided Vacations

Due to the out pouring of interest, the Nashville, Tennessee trip has been expanded! There is still limited room available in the additional vehicle. If you are interested in going on the trip, please contact C.A.R.E.S. at 570-225-7360. The trip will be from April 10, 2015 to April 16, 2015.



The next guided vacation will be a 5 day Disney World vacation October 14, 2015- October 19, 2015,

Happy Retirement!

October 2, 2014 C.A.R.E.S. said goodbye to a long standing, highly dedicated team member, Sarah Ohart. Sarah was honored with a ceremony that *married* her to retirement. Sarah is enjoying retirement with her husband, children, and grandchildren. Good luck in all future endeavors and we hope you visit often!



to share with the residents of Mrs. Bush's Personal Care Home in Kunkletown.

First Annual Staff Retreat

In October the C.A.R.E.S. staff had their first Staff Retreat! The team spent the morning working through scenarios to enhance experience dealing with crisis situations. Staff also joined together for a team building experience and went to Jim Thorpe and took a 15 mile bike ride through the Lehigh Gorge. It was a great day for staff to build relationships with one another and rejuvenate to better serve our VIP's!



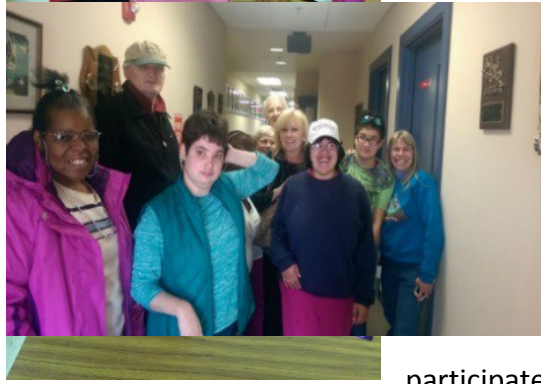
Halloween Bingo & Costume Party

Increasing Breast Cancer Awareness

VIP's at the Pocono Lake Day Program recognized Breast Cancer awareness by creating large pink ribbons



C.A.R.E.S. held our first Halloween Bingo Party on October 23, 2014.



Over 25 individuals

participated. We

Danced, played Bingo, and enjoyed Halloween themed snacks. It was a great opportunity for individuals to socialize and celebrate the holiday! Our next event will be an 80th birthday party for ELVIS! Elvis' birthday party will be held on Friday, January 16, 2015 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at St. John's UCC at 150 Pine Street, Tamaqua. Wear your best Elvis costume and be ready to dance!

Bocce Ball Gold Medalists



Carbon County Special Olympics sent athletes to the Advanced Bocce Ball Competition in Villanova in November, 2014. Josh Brown, along with his partner won the gold medal! Congratulations to all of the Bocce athletes and coaches!



The Pocono Lake Day Program honored veterans on November 11, 2014. VIP's created a plaque that was presented to a veteran at Mrs. Bush's Personal Care Home. Thank you, to each and every Veteran, for your service to our country!

Every Vote Counts!

VIP's at the Pocono Lake Day Program participated in the general election! Individuals were able to cast their vote or learn how to use the voting machines for future use. If you, or someone you know, would like to vote but is not registered, please visit www.votespa.com.

The Country Junction's Winterfest Competition

The Country Junction on Interchange Road in Lehighton held a Winterfest House Contest. The Pocono Day Program worked as a team to create a winter themed house to enter. The group was notified that they were awarded third place for their efforts! Congratulations to the Pocono Lake Program!



C.A.R.E.S. Celebrates the Holiday Season



C.A.R.E.S. VIP's and staff for the show and then shared a catered meal. It was a great time for everyone to get into the holiday spirit, build warm memories, and strengthen our support systems.



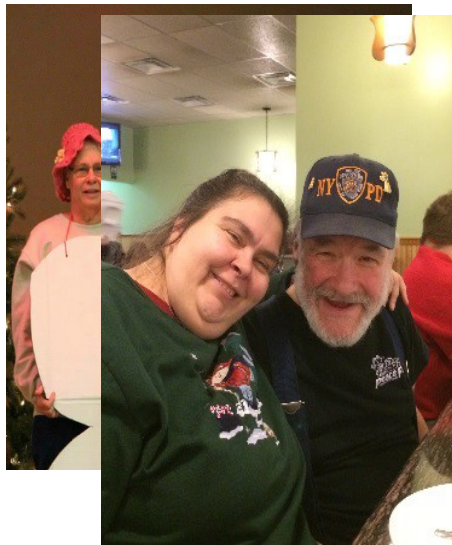
“The Happy Elf” Christmas Show



**Picture Courtesy of Andrew Leibenguth*

On December 19th the Tamaqua Day Program and Pocono Lake Day Program attended Harry Connick Jr.'s “The Happy Elf” at the Scranton Cultural Center. The show was performed by a combination of professional actors as well as 85 actors from across the NEPA region. The Christmas story is about an elf, Eubie, which longs to be part of Santa’s team. Instead of joining Santa’s team, Eubie is assigned the task of checking the naughty and nice list. Eubie takes his job very seriously and recognizes that not one person from the town of Bluesville has been nice. VIP’s watched and cheered in excitement as Eubie went to Bluesville to investigate the town!

The holiday season was busy here at C.A.R.E.S.! On December 12th we enjoyed a Christmas show the VIP’s from both Tamaqua and Pocono Lake put together. The individuals acted out a Christmas story and sang Christmas Carols for the audience!



VIP’s satisfied their hunger after “The Happy Elf” with a Hibachi lunch. VIP’s enjoyed salad, soup, and a main course prepared right in front of their eyes. VIP’s applauded with excitement as the onion volcano erupted. VIP’s also cheered each other on as everyone attempted to catch vegetables in their mouth as the chef tossed them across the grill.



C.A.R.E.S. Celebrates the Holiday Season

Families, Friends, and community supports joined

Staff and friends of C.A.R.E.S. enjoyed watching the VIP’s eyes glow as we shared in this experience with the individuals. This was most of the VIP’s first

experience with Hibachi, and we are elated to be part of it!

WANTED: C.A.R.E.S. Lifesharing Providers

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about being a C.A.R.E.S. Lifesharing Provider, please contact Natalie at 570-225-7360 or nbojko@cares4u.org.



Important Dates for C.A.R.E.S. LSP:

- All paperwork is due to the office by the 10th of the month. This includes monthly reports, COH, respite requests, doctor appointment forms, etc.
- Quarterly Lifesharing Meetings
 - January 23, 2015 8 am to 4 pm at 150 Pine St.

- April 24, 2015, 10 am to 12 pm @ office
- July 24, 2015 10 am to 12 pm @ office
- October 23, 2015 10 am to 12 pm @ office



- January 7: Fred S.**
- January 12: Angela J.**
- January 21: Mary G.**
- January 22: Jennifer W.**
- January 27: Kim H.**
- January 29: Lindsey A.**
- February 11: Dave H.**
- March 9: Charlie W.**
- March 22: Josh B.**