

RESIDENTIAL GROUP HOMES

GIVE INDIVIDUALS THEIR OWN SPACE

Unified Community Connections operates 46 residential homes throughout Maryland, where three or four individuals with disabilities live together in barrier-free housing with 24-hour care assistance and life-skills training. There are 18 homes in the Central region, eight in Frederick and Montgomery counties, ten in Hagerstown and ten in the Cumberland/Oakland area. There are two staff members per home and one or two overnight staff.

These single family homes in residential neighborhoods give individuals with disabilities both a sense of belonging and a quality of life, allowing them to feel independent and "grown up." Many times moving into a group home is a rite of passage; it was time to move out of mom and dad's house, and in this residential environment, they thrive.

"The most important thing to our residents is that they have their own space and belongings. They love to show off their home to visitors, especially their room, which they decorate to reflect both their hobbies and personalities. For example, one of the all men's homes is truly a "bachelor pad," and this is reflected in the decor, activities and staffing of the home," says Amy Kreitz, Unified's Chief Operating Officer.

Many of our homes have a wheelchair accessible van to be able to transport residents to activities in the community, doctor's appointment or jobs and gives them the mobility they desire. In each home, there is a schedule of activities and outings; but, everyone does not have to do the same thing at the same time. If one person wants to go to an Orioles game, for example, and the other doesn't, the staff make the arrangements to suit the wishes of both of the individuals. Individuals are also encouraged to take vacations once a year with a staff member to places such as DisneyWorld, the Bahamas, or even a cruise.

The friendships and camaraderie that develop between individuals in a home can be likened to a family experience. Some of the men and women have volunteer or paying jobs through supported employment programs; some go home on the weekends. The entire program is very individualized and with staff assistance individuals can come and go as they please.

"Our dedicated staff truly maximizes the quality of life for each person and tries to give them an enriching life in comfortable, personalized surroundings," says Amy.



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WORKPLACE GIVING . . .

Did you know that if your workplace participates in the United Way Campaign, another federated appeal or has an in house program, you can designate your support for Unified Community Connections through payroll deduction?

Agency numbers for Unified Community Connections are:

- United Way of Central Maryland #24
- Combined Federal Campaign #70735
- Maryland Charities Campaign #52-0696384
- Combined Charities campaign #8024
- Frederick County/City #0522
- Frederick Private, Cecil County, Allegany County and other areas in Maryland #53

Unified Community Connections is a proud member of Community Health Charities of Maryland.



PROGRESS

A PUBLICATION OF UNIFIED COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES
TO LIFE'S
POSSIBILITIES

FALL 2016

HOODSTOCK XIII SETS RECORD AND RAISES \$81,000 WE THANK OUR SPONSORS

A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND FUN TO BENEFIT UNIFIED COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Hoodstock XIII, Unified's family-friendly music festival, where guests wear jeans and tie-dye and enjoy live music from the 1960s and '70s, was held on Saturday October 22 at the American Visionary Art Museum. Hoodstock began in 2004 as a neighborhood event and has since grown into a major fundraiser for Unified with 400 people attending this year and raising a record \$81,000 for Unified Community Connections' programs and services to help individuals with disabilities.

Local band Roses n Rust once again headlined the event, playing music of both classic and modern artists. The Wafflers, Gumboot and Drum Dr. Dot also performed as part of this musical happening. All of these bands donate their time, and many band members have a relationship with Unified, whether board member, parent, family member or friend. In addition to the music, guests enjoyed dinner, beer and wine, raffles and a silent auction.

A highlight of the evening was when Baltimore Ravens Senior Advisor for Player Development and Unified Community Connections' board member OJ, Brigrance presented this year's Samuel A. Tucker Memorial Can Do Award to Tim Bailey. (See story on Can Do Award winner on page 2.)

Many thanks to Hoodstock committee members Russ Causey, Larry Musher, Barry Brill, Angela Strauch Lane, Matt Lenihan, Carol Sholes, Nick Richardson, and Lauren Bussard for all of their hard work in making this event such a success. A sincere thank you also goes to our lead sponsor Melanie Dorsey and her husband Daniel Standish. Special kudos go the Unified staff and volunteers and to all the people who came out this year to support Hoodstock XIII.

Mark your calendars for Hoodstock XIV on October 7, 2017 at the American Visionary Art Museum.



The 2016 Hoodstock Committee



Unified Board Chair Penny Lynch (left) with husband Robert and friends.



Event headliner Roses n Rust playing with Drum Dr. Dot.

Tie-Dye Diamond

In Honor of Mary Elizabeth Beukema by Melanie Dorsey & Daniel Standish

Peace and Love Platinum

Jennifer & Russ Causey
Saiontz & Kirk
Sandy Spring Bank

Flower Power Gold

Bruce Grau & Associates
Diane & Dave Coughlin
M&T Bank

Groovy Silver

100.7 The Bay
Aquanetta & James Betts
Sheri & Barry Brill
Chesapeake Telephone Systems
CMD Outsourcing Solutions, Inc.
Coach & Equipment
Gorfine, Schiller & Gardyn
Lenny Kline
Merritt Properties
Gracie & Larry Musher
Northern Pharmacy & Medical Equipment
Offit Kurman, Attorneys at Law
Anita & Nick Richardson
SOBO Voice
Synergy Financial
USI
Ira Wagner

Far Out Bronze

Amiccis Restaurant
Carematic Systems, Inc.
Dimensional Health Care Associates
FASTSIGNS of Owings Mills
Matt Lenihan
Light Street Dental
Brian Lund
Leah & Jeff Maddox
Chrisie & Gene Marrano
Metro Data
Scott Panian
Roth Staffing
Ilene & Michael Salzman
Carol Sholes & Bob Wallace
SoBo Café

Very Cool Friends

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Emily Evans, State Farm Insurance
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JLL
Mammojam
Paul Mauritz
Ellen & Glenn Milles
NAMI
Fran & Michael Neuman
Right Source Marketing
Windstream



OUR MISSION:

TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE, PRODUCTIVITY, AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE THEY SEEK.

TIM BAILEY

IS 2016 CAN DO WINNER

Tim Bailey received the Samuel A. Tucker Memorial Can Do Award at Hoodstock on October 22. Tim currently resides in one of Unified's residential homes and attends the Crossroads Day Center, where he is a member of the Community Learning Services team. Tim came to Unified in 2005 during a very difficult time in his life. But, since coming to Unified, Tim has worked with staff to develop coping strategies to overcome his challenges. Tim is known for his friendly demeanor and his easy to talk to personality. He is very protective of his staff and also has an amazing memory – you say you are going to do something and Tim will hold you to that promise.

Growing up on the southwest side of Baltimore, Tim, as a child, befriended several food vendors at the Hollins Market and would help them with several of their tasks such as breaking down boxes, taking out the trash, stocking materials, and doing whatever else they needed. As time moved on, Tim became a fixture at the market and began to get paid for his assistance. The merchants made sure to save work for Tim because they knew he would show up every day rain or shine. That tradition has continued for 45 years.

Tim is also a member of Unified's Community Learning Services team which dedicates their time to helping others in need throughout Baltimore. This team has logged over 2,983 volunteer service hours by helping at local charities such as Meals on Wheels, The Ronald McDonald House, and The Salvation Army to name a few. This team is driven, hardworking, and above all compassionate. Not only are they dedicated to representing themselves and the agency with pride, but they are also dedicated to helping others who are less fortunate. They have that Can Do attitude and Tim, in particular, has shown great determination in living an independent life, which is why he was selected to receive this year's Can Do award.



This year's Can Do Award recipient Tim Bailey accepts his award from Oj. Brigance, Diane Coughlin, and Rebecca Tucker.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

DONOR PROFILE

IT'S PERSONAL FOR MELANIE DORSEY

In July 1948, a little girl named Mary Elizabeth Beukema was born with a severe form of Cerebral Palsy and intellectual disabilities. In those days, no one predicted a long life span for individuals with disabilities and the supports and resources were not available to parents as they are today. Her mother was widowed at the age of 29, with four children. Mary Elizabeth proved too challenging to care for in a home setting, and was placed in an institution, which was common at the time. She remained there until her death at age 20.

Her mother ultimately remarried and had other children and one of her children, Melanie Dorsey, years later realized she had a sister she had never met and wanted to memorialize her sister and help others with disabilities. After much research, she discovered that Unified Community Connections provided the type of services and loving care that she would have liked Mary Elizabeth to have experienced. Melanie and her husband Daniel Standish, both lawyers, have been supporters of Unified since 2011 and have been the lead \$10,000 sponsor for Hoodstock since 2012. Melanie's family is well known throughout Howard County, and she and her husband presently reside at the Dorsey family farm in Howard County and in their home in Potomac, Maryland. They also have given \$30,000 to the Frederick Day Center renovation project as well as generous end-of-the-year contributions.

"When we toured the Frederick Day Center, we were so impressed with the warm and caring staff and how happy and affectionate the individuals there were as they hugged you and looked you in the eye. We have also toured Delrey and a group home and are just so impressed with what Unified does. CEO Diane Coughlin and the staff truly have been able to help people with disabilities have an enhanced quality of life," says Ms. Dorsey. "We look forward to continuing to help fund some of the needs of Unified."

NEW BOARD MEMBER . . .

WAYNE A. HORRELL named to Board of Directors

Wayne A. Horrell has 34 years of experience in the health care field. Prior to his retirement, Mr. Horrell served as the president and CEO of Community Health Charities of Maryland and Delaware.

Previous positions included corporate vice president of planning and business development for LifeBridge Health in Maryland, senior vice president of Northwest Hospital Center in Maryland; and director of planning and marketing at Citizens General Hospital in Pennsylvania. He also served as adjunct faculty for the MBA program at Hood College.

Wayne is on the Local Management Board of Frederick County in Maryland and has been involved in numerous health charities throughout the region, including the Carroll County Commission on Aging and both the United Way of Central Maryland and the United Way of Western Pennsylvania. He holds an MBA from Northland University, and a Master of English and a bachelor's degree in English education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Wayne currently resides in Frederick, Maryland.

LET YOUR WHEELS HELP TURN OUR WHEELS . . .

Let your wheels turn our wheels when you donate your car or vehicle to help children and adults with disabilities in Maryland. Unified Community Connections has a vehicle donation program that helps connect people with disabilities to life's possibilities through our adult day programs, residential homes, employment opportunities and the Delrey School. Cars, vans, trucks and other vehicles are accepted, and we provide free towing. Donating your vehicle may also be tax deductible. It's easy to donate your vehicle.

Just call 1-800-4Wheels today or donate online by visiting www.unified.org and clicking on vehicle donation.

OUT AND ABOUT



The Delrey School held Hoodstock Day and everyone wore tie-dye shirts that the students created



Individuals at Shannon's Farm



Enjoying a vacation in Ocean City



Charles White and Russell Brunner with staff members Tania O'Neal, Rebecca Huff, and Jeff Garlitz at Bethany Beach in Delaware

