



CREATING Opportunities

A publication of Easter Seals Goodwill

Fall 2010

Welcome to Creating Opportunities!

Dear Friends,
 I am thrilled to announce that our newsletter is back and better than ever! As you can see, it has been given a new name: *Creating Opportunities*. The last edition of our old *Quest* newsletter was issued during the winter of 2006. Our goal is to have issues of this newsletter available on a consistent basis for our readers to enjoy twice a year. We anticipate that *Creating Opportunities* will present you with a fresh look at how we work together as a team towards fulfilling our mission each and every day. All of the staff and volunteers here at Easter Seals Goodwill Industries are dedicated and committed to carrying out our mission to enhance employment, educational, social and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and other challenges. Currently we are facing tough times and with the economic recovery being so

slow, our services here at Easter Seals Goodwill Industries are becoming more and more important every day. Many non-profit organizations have been faced with numerous economic challenges in 2010 and this is exactly one of the reasons we decided to revitalize our old *Quest* newsletter. *Creating Opportunities* was designed to give our staff, donors, volunteers and friends a closer look at all of the support, hard work and dedication we receive on a daily basis. Our community shows us a great deal of support and this is just one of the ways we would like to give back. We are hopeful that *Creating Opportunities* will reach out to those community members who are not aware of our mission and present us with the opportunity to build our organization. We hope to also remind those who are already a part of our community what we are all about and what we can all accomplish when we work together. *Creating Opportunities* will offer you stories of our mission in action, current news about our



recent fundraising and upcoming events, dedicated volunteers and ways you can help, donations, special acknowledgements and so much more! We hope you enjoy our newsletter and as always, if you have any thoughts or suggestions, we look forward to hearing from you!

H. Richard Borer Jr., President



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My Opportunity - Leslie Carter



Leslie Carter, SPICE program participant

Our SPICE (Senior People Involved in Community Enrichment) program is a fulfilling program for clients of retirement age. This is especially true for Leslie Carter, who began the program in 1995. At 79 years old, she is the oldest and most active member, participating in various community activities including visiting senior centers, going bowling, volunteering, going to baseball games and museums and other outings that the program offers. She joins in the exercise group at Woodbridge Senior Center, and enjoys helping her fellow SPICE members at the bowling alley. She volunteers at FISH, helping to deliver groceries to those in need as well as at the Milford Animal Shelter.

In-house, she participates in bingo, pokeno, arts and crafts and helps on the clean-up committee. She loves to play her harmonica, which she plays at SPICE celebrations and parties.

While at home, Leslie is able to maintain her apartment with a limited amount of assistance from her staff. She is on the Board of Deacons and hands out communion at her church. She continues to take both ceramic classes and piano lessons. She is talented musically, playing a variety of instruments including the harmonica, piano, fife and recorder. She loves to travel, especially to New York City, where she enjoys being able to shop and to see musicals.

My Opportunity - Frank Riccio

Frank Riccio is a member of the Community Employment Services (CES) Program working at ThermoSpas where he helps collate informational packets. This year Frank was given the opportunity to volunteer with Lisa Zielinski, Special Events Coordinator, and he gladly accepted the challenge.

With the Golf Classic tournament just around the corner, Frank wanted to lend a hand and help make this event a success! Frank's dream job is to one day become a car salesman. Knowing this, Lisa took him out every Monday within the community to ask for raffle and silent auction donations for the 26th Annual Golf Classic. Frank truly went above and beyond, putting a great deal of effort into each trip and was pleased to find that people contributed to the event. He made such a difference, allowing the community to gain a better understanding of our mission. The Development department asked Frank to volunteer at the Golf tournament and see the outcome of his hard work. He did a great job passing out programs and golf shirts at the registration table and was even able to meet the golfers. He and other clients who volunteered enjoyed brunch once registration was complete. The Golf Classic was a success and a great deal of that is because of Frank. Thank you, Frank, for all your hard work!

"I really enjoyed the time Frank and I spent together each Monday morning going out and seeking donations. Frank's enthusiasm and the pride he felt when we received raffle prizes just made me so happy! Frank takes his new

responsibility very seriously. He was always impeccably dressed in a suit and tie. He greeted business owners with a hand-shake and an introduction and greeted people out in the community with a wave, a "hey buddy" and a smile. When we were unsuccessful, Frank kept a positive attitude and encouraged me to remain optimistic. When Frank is not assisting me, he checks in to see how our department is doing, sometimes over a nice cup of coffee. I look forward to working with him again next year!"

-Lisa Zielinski, Special Events Coordinator



Frank Riccio accepting a donation from Perry Kokenos, the owner of Gippers Restaurant & Ale House.

Community Re-entry Services

One of our most successful programs, Community Re-entry Services (CRS) is committed to helping individuals successfully integrate back into the community after a period of incarceration or a history with the Department of Corrections. Research has shown that one major deterrent to future involvement in the Criminal Justice System is obtaining employment. CRS helps people to not only find, but also maintain employment. CRS offers a variety of services before, during and after the employment process. CRS is offered in both our New Haven and Middletown offices.

Pre-Employment Services

- Identification of skills & abilities
- Goal setting
- Telephone etiquette
- Resume writing
- Cover letters
- Thank you notes
- Mock interviews
- Job retention issues
- Financial literacy

Additional Services

- Basic Computer Classes
- Case management, which includes issues that may interfere with employment
- Education registration
- Mental Health issues
- Housing
- Child care
- Substance abuse
- Clothing and transportation
- Literacy issues



Russell Lanziero & Robert DeMartino

Transitional Employment Program

This is an 8-12 week training program that focuses on work skills. This program takes place in 4 Goodwill Stores. The participant is paid for work performed including sorting, tagging and hanging donated items to be sold in the stores.

Greenbrier Greenhouses



There is a Chinese proverb that says, "He who plants a garden plants happiness." This is definitely true at Greenbrier Greenhouses, a program at Easter Seals Goodwill Industries. Greenbrier offers a complete horticulture program, providing training and employment for adults with disabilities. Workers are exposed to a wide range of horticultural activities and benefit from interaction with the community, each other, staff, volunteers and with nature itself. "I've seen lives dramatically changed and it's hard to believe it's not due to the program," says Scott Hickman, the horticultural specialist who oversees the program.

The Greenbrier program at Easter Seals Goodwill Industries has been around for 31 years, but may disappear by the end of the year. Because Greenbrier is also a retail operation, the program costs more than other services Easter Seals Goodwill Industries offers. "We're looking for grant money or

something to keep us going another year. That would buy time to figure out longer-term funding," says Hickman. The majority of the work at Greenbrier is done by 16 adults with disabilities. These individuals keep the greenhouse running. They plant seeds, re-pot plants, water, prune, clean the greenhouse and feed the birds and fish that reside there. Hickman spoke of a worker who when she first came to the program, would not speak, but now chats with everyone about her job. "This environment has made profound, positive changes in their lives," Hickman said.

If you or someone you know is interested in helping Greenbrier Greenhouses, contact Joseph Parente at (203) 777-2000 ext. 231.

Website

Planned Giving

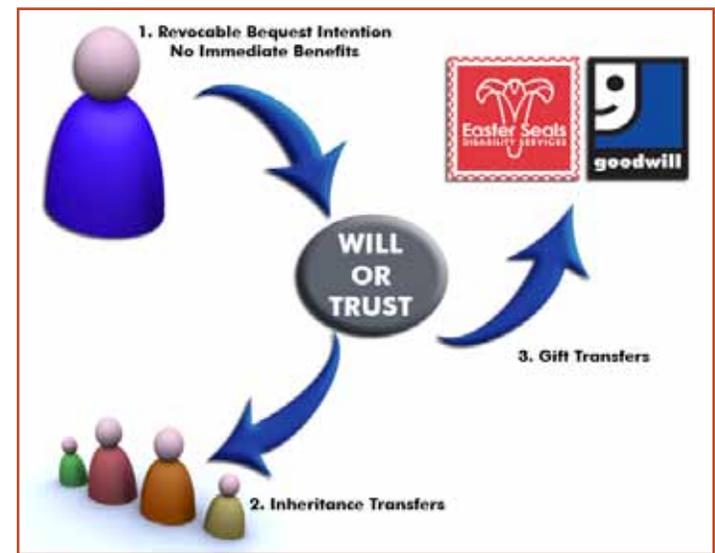


Easter Seals Goodwill Industries with the help of THINK! Creative Group of New Haven is currently redesigning our website. Our goal is to have an up-to-date website full of information for our clients, guardians, donors, shoppers and others interested in Easter Seals Goodwill Industries.

How It Works

- You can provide now for a future gift to Easter Seals Goodwill Industries by including a bequest provision in your will or revocable trust.
- Your will or trust directs assets to your heirs.
- Your will or trust directs a bequest to Easter Seals Goodwill Industries for the purpose(s) you specify.

For more information, call Eloise Mongillo, Director of Development at (203) 777-2000 ext. 262



20th Annual Lobsterbake

Hands down, this year's Lobsterbake was a success! The 20th annual Lobsterbake was held on Friday, September 10th at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven. The night was complete with delicious food and music you couldn't help but dance to; a special thank you to our first time D.J., John. The variety of silent auction and raffle prizes were a big hit, bringing us that much closer to our fundraising goal. The atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement thanks to our wonderful guests and all of our hardworking volunteers. A big thank you to everyone who makes this event come together so well year after year! We can't thank you enough for all that you do!



Thank You!

We would like to thank our Premier Sponsor, People's United Bank Investments Wealth Management & Trust, our guests, donors and volunteers for being part of the 20th Annual Lobsterbake. It is because of support from friends like you that we are able to continue our mission to enhance employment, educational, social and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and other challenges.

26th Annual Golf Classic

The 26th Annual Golf Classic was held on Monday, October 4th at the Farms Country Club in Wallingford. Despite the touch of rainy weather, it was a fantastic tournament! We are thankful to have an amazing group of people committed to supporting our mission. Even some of our clients decided to come out and volunteer their time passing out programs, golf shirts, gift bags and monitoring the hole-in-one prize on the green. Everyone enjoyed a delicious brunch, dinner, dessert and the exciting auction and raffle prizes! Thank you to all of our

excellent golfers, volunteers, clients and sponsors for making this event fantastic. A very special thank you to our Title Sponsor, Thompson & Peck and Presenting Sponsor, McDermott Lexus. We hope you all enjoyed the tournament and will join us again next year!

"The Consumers and I had a wonderful time at the Golf tournament. We enjoyed being able to meet all of the golfers and help out by distributing the gifts. We look forward to helping out next year!"

-Karen Herrmann, Community Services Supervisor

27th Annual Golf Classic to be held in the Spring 2011!

In 2011, the 27th Annual Golf Classic will be held in early May, instead of October. Mark your calendar and kick off the golf season with Easter Seals Goodwill Industries!



16th Annual Fantasy of Lights

Easter Seals Goodwill Industries
Presents
The 16th Annual
Fantasy of Lights
November 19-December 31, 2010
Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven, CT

Light Up Your Holiday

Get ready to start the holiday season with the 16th annual Fantasy of Lights! This amazing display runs November 19, 2010 through December 31st at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven.

Journey through the park and see a variety of spectacular light displays.

Fantasy of Lights opens each night at 5:00pm and closes Sunday-Thursday at 9:00pm and on Fridays and Saturdays at 10:00pm. Admission is \$10 per car, \$25 per mini-bus and \$50 for a full-sized bus.

We thank PSEG, our Title Sponsor, for their generosity and all of the volunteers, donors and visitors for their assistance. So start a new tradition and help to make this year's Fantasy of Lights the best yet!



Goodwill Corner

Turning your donations into jobs



Your donations to Goodwill

Are sold in one of our Goodwill stores located in New Haven, Middlesex and New London counties.



The money we earn from selling your donations funds employment services that assist people to find jobs.



Thank you for your donation and for helping someone who is unemployed to find a job.



The Grand Opening of the New Haven Goodwill Super Store

Goodwill's Newest "Super Store"

On July 16, 2009, we opened our newest, brightest Goodwill "Super Store." With over 10,500 square feet of selling space, it is one of our largest stores, offering plenty of space to show off the thousands of treasure items that we have for sale.

We have something for everyone, whether it be in our clothing departments or our vast book department, offering over 15,000 titles.

This store was custom built for Goodwill, including many energy-saving devices to save electricity.

This is our first store featuring the Donation Center in the front of the store. Since our Donors are so important to us, the Drop-Off Center has a large overhang to protect against inclement weather and helping to make your donating experience as simple and convenient as possible.

Located at 472 Foxon Boulevard, next to Aldi Supermarket on Route 80, the newest Goodwill store will pleasantly surprise you. We are open Monday-Saturday 9am-9pm and Sunday 9am-6pm, so stop by for a visit soon!

Look for our Donation Bins!

Easter Seals Goodwill Industries is reminding donors to consider carefully the manner in which they donate used clothing and other household items.

The greater New Haven area is among a host of cities nationwide that are seeing the sudden appearance of unattended collection bins. While some are owned by **bona fide charities**, many actually benefit **for-profit** organizations.

If you or someone you know is interested in getting a Donation Bin, contact Joe Galasso, (203) 777-2000.

When you donate to Easter Seals Goodwill, 100% of your donation is used locally to fulfill our mission to enhance employment, educational, social and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and other challenges.



41st Annual Meeting

Consumers of the Year

Brian Caliz
Leslie Carter
Theresa Shaw
Shaun Soresina
Nakisha Stevenson
Joe Walsh

Employers of the Year

Albers Foundation
Greater New Haven Transit
District (My Ride)
Stop & Shop, Amity Plaza
Panera Bread Company

Volunteers of the Year

Garry Gyenizs
International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers, Local 90

Employees of the Year

Anneka Banton
Jennifer Barrow
Raquel Berrios
Carol Buccieri
Teresa Daly
Steven Kunde
Joel Rusek

Wednesday, June 2, 2010 saw the 41st Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon of Easter Seals Goodwill Industries. Friends, honorees and employees gathered at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven along with emcee Kristen Cusato of News 8-WTNH to recognize the hard work of consumers, employers, volunteers and employees. In addition, John Cunneen, President of The Cunneen Company and Joseph A. Bucci, Chief Financial Officer of GBAC were welcomed to the Board of Directors.

Among the honorees was the Greater New Haven Transit District (My Ride). Donna Carter, an employee, spoke about an extraordinary client, Kevin Fletcher, who used the My Ride Services on a daily basis to get to work. When



Rich Borer, Kevin Fletcher, Donna Carter & Ben Cozzi

he was laid off, he called Donna and asked if they had a position available for him. Donna was so impressed with Kevin's initiative that he was hired for a position.

The Corporate Sponsorship Award was presented to People's United Bank, whose support and contributions have greatly contributed to the success of our programs and fundraisers. The Community Partnership Award was given to the Kiwanis Club of New Haven for their continued assistance and donations to the SPICE and CES programs.



Rich Borer, Kristen Cusato, Danna Jennings & Ben Cozzi

Dr. Danna Jennings of the Institute for Neurodegenerative Disorders was our keynote speaker. She spoke about the effects of dementia in people with Down Syndrome, an issue very close to Easter Seals Goodwill Industries as our clients age.

Dell Reconnect
A DELL | GOODWILL ALLIANCE

Your old computers and televisions deserve a better home than ending up in a landfill. Simply drop off your unwanted computer and television equipment at our Goodwill locations anytime. This free initiative ensures environmentally conscious recycling and helps to put people to work.

Don't Dump. Donate!
For more info visit
www.reconnectpartnership.com

 **goodwill**
Stores & Donation Centers
Good Stuff. Good Price. Goodwill.



Shop for your
Holiday Wishes!

Shop at your local Goodwill store this holiday! You'll find a treasure trove of holiday decorations and unique gifts, all at fantastically low prices!



 **Gift Cards Available!**
Good Stuff. Good Price. Goodwill.



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GOODWILL OUTLET

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 (203) 248-1600

GROTON

664 Long Hill Road
 (860) 448-6400

HAMDEN

2369 Dixwell Avenue
 (203) 230-2910

MIDDLETOWN

955 Washington Street
 (860) 347-5404

NEW HAVEN

472 Foxon Boulevard
 (203) 468-2355

NORWICH

201 Salem Turnpike
 (860) 204-0018

ORANGE

81 Boston Post Road
 (203) 795-3333

ROCKY HILL

80 Town Line Road
 (860) 529-6838

SOUTHINGTON

350 Queen Street
 (860) 621-0775

WALLINGFORD

1145 North Colony Road
 (203) 265-4211

WESTVILLE

61 Amity Road
 (203) 397-2735

ATTENDED DONATION CENTERS

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1151 West Main Street

CHESHIRE

1032 South Main Street
 (203) 250-1444

EAST LYME

214 Flanders Road
 (860) 691-3355

GUILFORD

725 Boston Post Road
 (203) 453-5995

HAMDEN WAREHOUSE

2901 State Street
 (203) 248-1600

UNATTENDED DONATION CENTERS

BRANFORD TRANSFER STATION

747 East Main Street

HAMDEN TRANSFER STATION

231 Wintergreen Avenue

NORTH HAVEN RECYCLE CENTER

98 Elm Street

ORANGE TRANSFER STATION

South Orange Center Road

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Creating Opportunities is a semi-annual publication of Easter Seals Goodwill Industries of New Haven, CT. If you know anyone who would like to receive this publication, call (203) 777-2000 ext. 269 or visit www.eastersealsgoodwill.org to sign up.

SAVE THE DATE



FANTASY OF LIGHTS

November 19 - December 31, 2010

Lighthouse Point Park
 New Haven, CT