

WAITING FOR VISITORS



Jessica and Friends Community is excited to announce our customized Website. Over the past several months, our website has experienced much updating and retooling. It is a user friendly, enhanced representation of who we are, what we do, and why we do it. Please visit us at www.jandfcommunity.org. We welcome your comments, questions and/or feedback regarding the site please contact us at information.jfc@gmail.com.

PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

FALL GATHERING

“PARENTS CONNECTING WITH PARENTS”



As parents of children with disabilities, we often face issues where we don't know where or who to turn to for answers. A panel of seasoned parents will discuss issues on your heart and share what they have learned in their journey of raising a child with a disability.

Please join us at the J&FC Office/Pathway Building, 218 Dew Drop Road, York, PA on October 13th from 6:45pm to 8:15pm.

CHRISTMAS ON OUR MINDS

With back to school days on most families' minds, some of us at Jessica and Friends Community are thinking about Christmas! We are starting to plan and prepare for the very special Christmas Celebration we will be presenting to you on Sunday, December 4, at 6:00 pm at Church of the Open Door. We can't tell you more because we want you to come expectantly seeing how Christ's birth will be celebrated as we present the Christmas story to you and your family. Be sure December 4 is on your mind and on your calendar!!



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Over the summer, we probably heard more than we cared to about deficits, entitlements, debt limits, and federal budgets. These news stories came on the heels of state budget debates and how to resolve them. What is clear is that our current level of revenue is not adequate to meet our expenses. Three possibilities have been suggested for the resolution of this situation. One is to cut services to decrease expenses. A second consideration is that revamping tax policy will increase revenue. The third possibility is that as the economy improves, tax revenue will increase naturally.

Probably all of us would agree that none of these concepts will give us enough revenue to continue to provide the current level of services into the long-term future. Whether it is Medical Assistance, Medicare, Social Security, or any one of thousands of important services, we know we have to make major reforms so that our children and grandchildren will not inherit an economy that is on the brink of crumbling.

What does this mean for Jessica and Friends? More importantly, what does it mean for the individuals for whom we care and their families? Many of these individuals count on organizations like ours to help provide them a home and activities to fill their day. What will happen when there isn't enough money to provide these important needs? Who will decide who gets services, how much, and in what setting?

We do know that fewer individuals are being found eligible for community based waiver funding, the current waiting list for a residential placement is long, very few new people are being allocated a consolidated waiver, and very few families can afford the cost of day programs on their own. What does the future hold for these individuals?

The individuals we care for will need a voice when the difficult decisions are being made. All of us need to be advocates for the programs in which we believe. Our law and policy makers need to be told again and again that what we do impacts the lives of very important people. I love that we are able to provide a home to 10 individuals at J&FC, but what about the other 100 who are on a waiting list? Where will the money come from to provide a home to them? We cannot sit back and let someone else decide how this will happen. We need to be part of the conversation and decision-making *now* rather than become victims later.

Michael Wagner, Executive Director



TWO NEW FACES IN THE OFFICE

FISCAL ASSISTANT



Andrea Ross has recently joined Jessica & Friends as the Fiscal Assistant. A graduate of Penn State University Park, she has a background in banking and customer service. A State College native, Andrea moved to York County in 2009 after her marriage to Jonathan Ross, a Lewisberry native. Andrea learned about this great opportunity from a friend, Maggie Bear, who had recently started working at Sarah Kathryn House. She was drawn to the opportunity to work in a faith-based service organization among compassionate, like-minded people.

ASSISTANT TO THE COMMUNITY PROGRAM MANAGER



Katrina LaBreck is not a new face to Jessica and Friends Community. On June 29th, in addition to her direct care position, Katrina accepted the position of Assistant to the Community Program Manager. Originally from Glen Burnie, MD she now resides in Hanover, PA with her three children. Katrina comments how the Lord prepared her for her work at Jessica and Friends Community "when my children were younger, I took on the responsibility of being a care giver to a child with Asperger's (a mild case of autism) and I believe that experience was instrumental in preparing me for this position at J&F!" Katrina is a 1992 graduate of Baptist Bible College with an Associates degree in Biblical studies. It is truly her pleasure to serve God with and through Jessica and Friends Community.

CAFÉ CHATTER

On the third Wednesday of each month we have a program called "Café Chatter". It is a casual event beginning at 3:30 for you to visit us at our Admin Offices/Pathway Services for coffee, conversations and updates on our ministry. If you can, please call, 747-9000 to let us know and we will have the coffee ready! You may even be blessed by the Hosanna Ringers while you are here.



COMING SOON

In the spring, you were very generous helping us celebrate Jessica's 30th birthday with gifts totaling nearly \$8,000 for a sign to identify our office/Pathway building in the community. We have been working with a local company to design a sign and base that will not only beautify our building but also be effective to guide people to our location. Again, thank you so much for your support and giving towards our sign to be erected soon!



SAVE THESE DATES

- **October 13, 2011**—"Parents Connecting with Parents," 6:45pm—8:15pm
- **October 22, 2011**—Christmas Tree Hill Fundraiser, 9:30am—9:00pm
- **December 4, 2011**—Christmas Celebration at Church of the Open Door, 6:00pm

CARDS, CARDS, AND MORE CARDS

As an ongoing project, please continue to send in those cards needed for this super ministry project for Pathway Services. We will accept all cards with the exception of Hallmark, Disney, and American Greeting cards. Our individuals have been busy working on the cards to get them ready for our fall fundraiser at "The Mansion."



IT'S OFFICIAL...

The past few months have been very busy since Jessica & Friends Community Board of Directors gave their approval to move ahead to create a new manufacturing and sales organization that provides jobs for those with varying levels of intellectual disabilities. This new company is now known as J&F Products, LLC and as part of its vision, Jessica and Friends Community one day hopes to provide unsubsidized private employment to individuals with intellectual disabilities. J&F Products, LLC would provide employment opportunities which would enhance the independence of its employees. All products from J&F Products, LLC will be marketed in the local area to increase the awareness and importance of unsubsidized employment and the mission of Jessica and Friends Community.

With much of the legal work behind us, the new product committee is immersed in the final product & package design of our introductory products. Volunteers assisted with clean up, design, and set up of our work area in the warehouse portion of the building located at the administration offices. Our hope is to be producing product by early October with product available for purchase shortly thereafter. Please leave some space on your Christmas shopping list for our eco-friendly products. (designer soap, fire starters, and terrariums).

As you can imagine, there is a lot happening nearly every minute of every day at J&F Products, LLC preparing for the fall product launch. In the coming days, we will be finalizing the management structure of J&F Products, LLC developing production schedules, sales and marketing plans, staffing plans, and so much more. If you have talent in these areas and would like to volunteer for a leadership position, please contact Christine at the Jessica & Friends Community administration office.

These are exciting times at J&F Products, LLC! We are thankful for the overwhelming response from the summer newsletter for our request for donated items. At this time, our need is for paper mache' egg cartons, wax and used candles. And most importantly, we ask for your support through your daily prayers. We pray for direction and wisdom in our quest to develop J&F Products, LLC into a company that provides yet another path for those with intellectual disabilities to contribute and live their lives to their fullest potential.

Todd Sweet,
Chairman of Development Committee

THANK YOU PATHWAY VOLUNTEERS!

Pathway Services has been blessed to have a dedicated group of volunteers who faithfully donate their time and talents to strengthen our program. Barbara Reever assists every Tuesday with all aspects of the program. Judy Santel visits at least two Wednesdays every month to provide cooking and kitchen skills to the individuals. Carole Oldhouser helped the participants every other Friday with arranging flowers for our "Blossoms to Blessings" ministry. Karen Oswald leads the group in a variety of craft activities and Pam Harbold is directing the card project. The participants and staff at Pathway Services say "Thank You" for the great job these volunteers are doing!



Pictured from Left: Carole Oldhouser, Barbara Reever, and Judy Santel

[not pictured] Karen Oswald and Pam Harbold

"You make a living by what you get.

You make a life by what you give."

~Winston Churchill

BELLS ARE RINGING ... (CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

This group with varied abilities, has learned to play the bells differently and have added creative movement and sign language to their program. Amy and Lindsay are excited about the potential these individuals show as they are developing their skills in the

Fine Arts.

God has created all of us to worship Him, and our individuals have led hundreds in a very moving and special worship time as their “bells are ringing and hearts are singing” to God’s glory.

The Hosanna Ringers would love to be invited to your church or community event. Please contact Donna Lighty at 717-225-0534 to schedule a time for us to share our gifts with you.



Jayme Janora and Kim Grove read a passage from Scripture



Ringers lead prayer during a nursing home visit



From left: Jayme Janora, Kim Grove, Sarah Keeney, Mike Strickler, Marlene Shaub, Elizabeth Smith and Donna Lighty

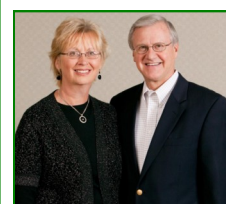


Sarah Keeney performs a wordless drama



Mike Strickler shares one of his talents; playing the autoharp

LIFE’S SIMPLE PLEASURES



Jessica and Friends Community was founded on the biblical principle that everything in our lives is a gift entrusted to us by God to make an impact in others’ lives. We daily thank the Lord for each one who invests in this ministry so that we can continue to make a difference.

A recent letter from a ministry partner encouraged us so. He wrote,

“Over the past weekend we spent some time visiting with my family. Every time my nephew (who is 12 years old with special needs) walked by me he would stop, hold out both hands and say, “boa,boa.” This is his way of asking us to sing “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” to him. He loves to have people take hold of his hands and swing him back and forth, all the while

singing this favorite song. This makes him laugh out loud and brings a huge grin to his face!

Taking time out of life’s busy schedule to sing a little song like that to a boy who loves it with his whole heart, makes me continue to appreciate all that you and the rest of your team do for countless individuals on a day-to-day basis! It’s amazing what participating in life’s simple pleasures can do for the receiver...as well as the giver!

Enclosed please find my gift. Keep up the great work and thanks for all that you and the rest of your team unceasingly do.”

We have discovered, too, that music is a universal language which brings pleasure to all—the giver and the receiver. Going all the way back to King David, Israel’s beloved musician, who composed numerous psalms expressing both personal and

corporate praise, music is a means for all believers to express praise to their Creator and Saviour. How grateful we are for our bell choirs which allow our individuals to pour out the grateful feelings of their hearts.

Now, may we share a need with you? We are hoping to purchase brass handbells for two octaves of bells, replacing chimes that we are presently borrowing. The cost is over \$5,000 and the Hosanna Ringers have raised \$1575. So we have a need of \$3,425 remaining. Please consider how you can be a part of life’s simple pleasures—beautiful bells ringing and all hearts singing!

Thanking God for you,
Peter and Paulette Teague,
Co-founders



Faith-based support and services for individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities

218 DEW DROP ROAD
YORK, PA 17402
Phone (717) 747-9000
Fax (717) 747-9004

Equal Opportunity Employer

Check out our **NEW** website!

www.jandfcommunity.org

- Updates
- Vision and History
- Employment application
- Publications
- Donating Online

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MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIFTS

June 1 to August 31

In Honor of:

Hosanna Ringers (for bells)
Stuart Levey’s Birthday

Stella Neymeyer’s Birthday

Jessica Teague’s Birthday (for sign)

Peter and Paulette Teague family

In Memory of:

Robert W. Teague (for sign)

Robert W. Teague

Given by:

Grace Baptist Church
William and Charlotte Thoman MJ and Catherine Christopher
John and Susan Kennedy
Charles and Maureen Letocha
John and Elaine Yates
James and Ilene Boelman
Lee and Elaine Neymeyer
James and Ilene Boelman
Bob and Dorothea Kampman
David and Ann Wollman
William and Constance Shade

Given By:

Charles and Nancy Blanks
Susan Gradwell
Sally Kirkpatrick
Robert Tisdale

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JESSICA AND FRIENDS COMMUNITY NEWS is published quarterly to provide relevant updates and current issues of importance consistent with our mission to the families we serve, churches, friends and supporters.

Please send all correspondence including address corrections to Jessica and Friends Community, 218 Dew Drop Road, York, PA 17402.



Faith-based support and services for individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities

FALL 2011

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3

A DAY AT THE MANSION

FALL FUNDRAISER



Jessica and Friends Community is honored to partner with Christmas Tree Hill for a fundraiser on Saturday, October 22 from 9:30am to 9:00pm. The event will be held at “The Mansion” located on 2840 Whiteford Rd. across from The York Galleria Mall.

Christmas Tree Hill will be donating a percentage of the sales from that day to Jessica and Friends Community, designated for the start up costs of J&F

Products, LLC (see article on page 4).

From 10:00am to 5:00pm, there will be a silent auction throughout the Mansion. Customers and friends will have the opportunity to bid on specific Christmas Tree Hill products including Vera Bradley, Byers Choice, and many more! Explore the many rooms, bid, and shop as we hope to raise money for this worthy project. Enjoy a fall snack on the porch and enter to win prize drawings!

Room sponsorships are also available for interested partners of Jessica and

Friends Community. Room sponsorship ranges from \$100 to \$250. For more information please call Mike Wagner at 717-747-9000.

Christmas Tree Hill is a great partner of Jessica and Friends and the South Central Pennsylvania Region. Please visit Christmas Tree Hill at The Mansion on October 22, purchase some items for your home or gifts for loved ones and help support Jessica and Friends Community.

BELLS ARE RINGING...



Beethoven’s famous melody, “Bells are ringing, hearts are singing” from the Ninth Symphony comes to mind as Jessica and Friends Community formed their bell choir almost two years ago. It all started with a staff member, Donna Lighty, who was practicing Christmas Songs with our individuals, noticed they were keeping rhythm with the songs. With that in mind, she developed the idea that perhaps they could form a bell choir. So she contacted the Director of the Melmark Joybells near Philadelphia,

who invited Donna, and staff member, Amy McKinley, along with several of our individuals for a training session. They were so inspired, that the first group of four ringers was formed, called the Hosanna Ringers, giving their first performance several months later at the 2009 Christmas Celebration.

There was excitement in the air as others were encouraged to join the group, quickly growing to nine members, and practice began on a weekly basis. As skills increased, the group started playing chimes, initially spending four months practicing a single song. Over time, they have

become a Ministry Team, traveling to churches and retirement homes where they provide a sacred program of music, drama, scripture and prayer. Donna is encouraged by how greatly their musical skills have improved, their self-confidence increased, and the special friendships being developed as they care and pray for each other.

Recently the Directors saw a need to start a second group of bell ringers called the Pathway Ringers co-directed by Amy McKinley and Lindsay Fennessey.

(continued on page 5)