



# Reaching Out

Vol 4

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## A Message From Martin Lampe, Board President



All organizations need to grow and change, and By Their Side is moving forward with new leadership and new energy. The Board has known for some time that Beverly Rill was ready to retire, but Bev agreed to stay on until solid new leadership was in place and to help us with the transition. We are so appreciative for Bev's help, and for all she has done for By Their Side and for our clients over her 27-year career. And we are confident that Kathy Vecchioni is just the right person to lead By Their Side. The transition in leadership was also (Continued Page Two)

## We've Moved

By Their Side has relocated to Baltimore! We are indebted to Arc Carroll for their generous office lease over the past two decades. Arc Baltimore has graciously provided a similar shared office arrangement. Personal Advocates will continue to work from home offices, so this change is expected to have little impact on our organization, but it will make us more accessible to many people. You can reach us at:

**By Their Side, Inc.**  
**7215 York Rd # 352**  
**Baltimore, MD 21212**  
**443-279-1234**  
**443-279-1235 (fax)**  
[info@bytheirside.org](mailto:info@bytheirside.org)



## Executive Director Beverly Rill Retires



The Board of Directors of By Their Side announces the retirement of long time Executive Director Beverly Rill. Beverly has been a wonderful leader who has guided the organization through significant changes over the past 27 years. She is a tireless advocate for families and their relatives with a developmental disability. The Board is immensely grateful for Beverly's dedicated service and is delighted that she will continue with By Their Side as a Personal Advocate in western Maryland. Please join us in congratulating Bev on her retirement, effective July 1, 2012, when you see her at the November Annual Meeting.

By Their Side remains in excellent hands with the appointment of Kathy Vecchioni as Executive Director. Kathy previously worked 20 years as a service coordinator and Service Coordination Director overseeing services for 6,000 people. She will continue her work with the individuals she has served as a By Their Side Personal Advocate for the past six years. As Executive Director, Kathy is working to reach out to new families seeking the unique services of By Their Side, building member services for families, and overseeing By Their Side's legacy of strong advocacy and consultation for individuals and their families. Kathy can be reached at the office several days a week or by email, [kvecchioni@bytheirside.org](mailto:kvecchioni@bytheirside.org)



## Lifelong Advocates for Marylanders with Developmental Disabilities

### Board Executive Committee

Martin Lampe, President  
 Jeffrey A. Dahlka, Sr., Treasurer  
 Kimberly Knapp, Secretary  
 Marsha Carow, Immediate Past President

### Executive Director

Kathy Vecchioni, MSW

### Board Members

Craig Hebert  
 Kimberly Breton laquinta  
 Joan B. Kolobielski  
 Colleen Sinclair Prosser, Esq.  
 Margaret M. Ulle  
 Mark Wagner

### Personal Advocates

Susan Buehl  
 Leonard Cohen  
 Marilyn Folus  
 Linda Golob  
 Beverly Rill  
 Rebecca Rubin LCSW-C  
 Debbie Willis

## GoodSearch

**"Every penny counts."** We have earned \$165 through Good Search contributions this year, thanks to members who have signed up to support By Their Side. If you shop online or search the internet and would like to support our efforts, **please register with goodsearch.com**. And once you sign up, every time you patronize a restaurant on their list, By Their Side automatically gets a contribution. Funds help support the additional advocacy needs of members in active services. - Kim Knapp, Member Services Committee

## Advocacy Questions

***We are often asked for suggestions to reduce medical costs so more funds are available for recreation:***

- If you have medical assistance *but not medicare*, you can enroll in a Managed Care Organization (MCO) that offers dental coverage as an incentive to join. Maryland's Healthchoice website ([www.dhmd.state.md.us/mma/healthchoice](http://www.dhmd.state.md.us/mma/healthchoice)) provides comparative information about MCOs. For example, Diamond Coventry and Maryland Physicians Care has provided dental services under anesthesia.\* To explore whether this is a good option for you, find out if your current healthcare providers participate in the MCO you are considering, and then contact the MCO and verify that dental services are provided at the level you require. You can change your MCO annually.

\*By Their Side does not endorse particular MCOs.

- Persons in residential services with Waiver funding can ask their resource coordinator to submit uncovered healthcare bills to the Division of Eligibility for Waiver Services (DEWS) for review and possible authorization for deduction from income prior to determining the individual's monthly contribution to care.
- [www.dentalplan.com](http://www.dentalplan.com) provides a list of discount plans that reduce member fees.
- Periodically check the financial statement your provider keeps for you, for cost savings.
- Ask your resource coordinator to help locate funding for adaptive equipment or related needs.

## Sibling Support

Sibnet@yahooogroups.com is highly recommended by a By Their Side parent who has followed their conversation for years. The issues discussed are widely shared and the advice is practical and supportive.



Based on recent inquiries, we would like to evaluate the interest in an adult sibling group to discuss advocacy issues. Please email [kvecchioni@bytheirsideside.org](mailto:kvecchioni@bytheirsideside.org) if you might be interested.

## Wish List

If you are willing to share your valuable time or experience, please let us know! Your help will allow our staff to spend more time helping families.

1. Occasional assistance with office projects like mailings or putting together annual meeting folders and family packets
  2. Fundraising with the Board of Directors
- Thank you!

## Mail Alert

We are working through some mail delivery issues. If you are awaiting a reply to correspondence or have sent a contribution but not received a thank you letter, please contact the office as soon as possible. We apologize for any inconvenience.

## A Message from Martin Lampe, Continued

an opportune time to move our office. Our new location will be more convenient for most of our members and keep them in close contact with all of the people and resources available at the largest Arc in Maryland.

As always, we invite all members to stay in contact with our Board and our staff. We are always available to help, and we are always looking for people to volunteer, serve on one of our committees, or on our board. And we are always looking for new members, so please recommend By Their Side to your friends.

## IN MEMORY OF... By Marilyn Folus

Allen Schwartz passed away May 8, 2012 following one of many hospitalizations. I have known Allen for the last twelve years as his By Their Side Personal Advocate, and it was my privilege to be asked to speak at his graveside funeral service: "It is my understanding that according to Jewish custom, one does not actually count the number of people gathered to pray. Yet, we just need to look at the group gathered here to bid goodbye to Allen Schwartz this afternoon to know that he was cared for and cared about. Despite Allen's disability and the issues it presented, he had a sweetness about him that endeared him to those he came in contact with over the years. He remembered them, and their names, and appreciated the attention they gave him, with a sly smile that was his alone. As Allen's advocate and friend of many years, I think it fitting, at this time, to say "thank you" to all those individuals on Allen's behalf—he would like that. And let us all say, "Rest in Peace."

*Over the years, By Their Side assisted Allen in many ways. Early on Marilyn helped Allen change to a provider agency that helped him observe the traditions of his faith. She kept his family informed even when they were out of the country. Most recently Marilyn successfully advocated for Allen's medical staff to find an alternative to a proposed feeding tube so that Allen could continue to enjoy meals—very important to him. Thank you, Marilyn.*

### Contribution Update

**By Their Side's June Fund Drive continues!** To date, we have received contributions from 25% of our support base, totaling almost \$6700. If you have not had the opportunity, please considering sending a contribution to help us meet our goal of \$10,000. Your donation will help support our program as we work to address the needs of those we serve.

***We wish to thank the following people for their contributions since September 2011:***

DONATIONS			CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ANNUAL MEETING
Richmond F. Allian Elizabeth Benjamin Harry Benoit Bill & Anne Buchanan Alise B. Burriss Marsha Carow Dennis Chekan Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Cherrix Richard & Joan Fidler John Gadd Mr. & Mrs. James Gibson William H. Hagar Mary & Mike Harris Louise Bond Heck Patricia Highet Bill & Maxine Hamilton Jean Hamilton Mr. & Mrs. Stephen J. Hoffman James & Winnie Kao Joan Karasik Judy Karasik Mr. & Mrs. Clinton Kelly Ms. Evelyn King Mrs. Anne Kirby Laura A. Knott Fred Kolchin Frank Kutcher James Kuzma Martin & Barbara Lampe Joseph Lepak Charles Mobley, Jr. Richard Montgomery Ann Moore	John Murphy Barbara Patigalia Albert Pollin Colleen Prosser Robin T. Smith Ann L. Steele Russell Steele Jack & Stephan Ventura Rolando Vieta George & Judy Volkman Jim & Jeanne Walsh Harvey & Marion Yurow  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>IN HONOR OF...</b></p> Donald Baca, from David Baca Marsha Carow, from Ed & Caroline Hoffman Barry Fred Davis, from Fred and Bonnie Davis Elaine Fickenscher, from Dorothy Fickenscher Robin Gadd, from John Gadd Ted Gutkin, from Janet Farbstein Richard Montgomery, from Karen Montgomery Jake Lazovick Woodon Graduation, from Judith Stein Mr. & Mrs. Steven J. Zaklan, from Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Zaklan  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>IN MEMORY OF...</b></p> Albert J. Brown, Colonel, Ret. USAF, from Jessie C. Brown Michael E. Bubel & In honor of	Stephen P. Bubel, from Patricia Roop Hollinger Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Cherrix, from Phyllis Cherrix Julian & Susan, from Hilda & Fred Ederer My dad, Bill Eicher, from David Eicher Family Alvia & Betty Ford and in honor of L. David Ford, from Mary Jo Ford Dale Ben & Edith Gould, from Susan G. Brome Frank Kutcher, from Mary Kutcher Edna Knapp, from Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Knapp Gloria Tappero Lepak, from Joseph Lepak Luanne(Kadee) Perry, from Bob & Luanne Frebertshauser Mr. & Mrs. Richard Pizarro, from Mr. & Mrs. Ricardo Pizzaro Elizabeth B. Schneider, from Katherine Fones H. Ralph Sheets, from Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sheets Kathy Vecchioni's father, from Linda Golob Fred Waple, Jr., from C.H. & Laura Tseroris Mr. and Mrs. Steven Zaklan, from Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Zaklan	Mr. & Mrs. J. Baranauskas Harry Benoit, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Donald G. Blakely Alise Burriss Robin Catlett-Smith Mr. & Mrs. Edward Ciesielski Ed & Nancy Dahlka Patricia E. Davis Fred & Hilda Ederer Mr. & Mrs. Thurmus King Beatrice Kolchin Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Knapp Sinclair Prosser Law, LLC Dr. & Mrs. Martin Lampe Philip & Winnie Levinson Charles L. Mobley Mr. & Mrs. Ricardo Pizarro Mr. & Mrs. John Slavcoff Mr. & Mrs. Edward Stover Marge Uille Dr. & Mrs. Mark Wagner Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Zaklan   <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Your support is greatly appreciated by the individuals and families we serve.</i></b></p>

*By Their Side is an approved recipient of the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area and the Chesapeake Bay Area. The Designation Number is 15134 for either campaign. Gifts can also be made through the Combined Charity Campaign for Baltimore City Employees and Retirees (# 1810).*

## Personnel Update

Please welcome **Susan Buehl, Rebecca Rubin, LCSW-C, and Sandie French**. **Susan** worked in the developmental disabilities field for over 25 years as a Service Coordinator and Supervisor. She now serves as a Personal Advocate for individuals throughout Maryland. **Rebecca** worked for the past 12 years at Jewish Foundation for Group Homes as a social worker and program director, and has 6 years of counseling experience in the mental health field. She joins us as a Personal Advocate in Southern Region. **Sandie** is By Their Side's new Administrative Assistant, working a few hours a week. With over 20 years of experience, Sandie is a wonderful addition to our staff.

## Funding for Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Services

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene reports that over the next three years, the DDA plans to provide new services for 300 individuals at high risk as well as, this year, services to 40 people with older caregivers through the Waiting List Equity Fund and day services to 608 transitioning youth.

Two By Their Side families recently received DDA residential services after requesting a review of their situation or "Priority of Need". By Their Side's Annual Meeting will offer an overview of acquiring and assuring excellent supports and services for your relative. We hope to see you then.



### Hold the Date— November 3, 2012— for By Their Side's ANNUAL SPONSORS MEETING and LUNCHEON

#### "Three Giant Steps to Service Satisfaction"

- 1) How to prepare for a review of your DDA Waiting List priority status so that you might receive urgently needed services;
- 2) How to access services and select a provider once you are funded, and
- 3) How to monitor service quality and make the most of available advocates.



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