

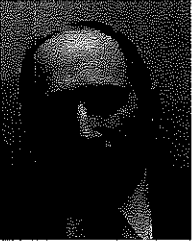
Reaching Out

Vol. 6

A Publication of By Their Side, Inc.

Fall 2014

A Message From Mark L. Wagner, Board President



I hope everyone has had a wonderful Summer and shared it with their nearest and dearest. Since our Newsletter last fall, By Their Side has seen growth in several areas. More families are becoming aware of the vital role By Their Side's advocacy program can play in the

lives of their loved ones and are arranging advocacy that begins now. We are not limited to serving members after their parents are no longer in the picture. This growth is also manifested as more families are learning about By Their Side through our statewide outreach efforts and are making plans for the future.

At the same time, we have added Personal Advocates in the Southern, Western and Eastern Shore regions of Maryland. You can read about all of the Advocates in this newsletter. We are truly statewide in our reach.

Another trend we see is the ability to adjust and expand our services as new needs emerge. We have identified new opportunities for self-advocates to contract for services and siblings to join even if their parents passed away without doing so; their fee is lower to reflect the modified service. We are working with siblings and other organizations to help establish the Maryland Sibling Network as an important new resource.

With these trends in view, we will always
(Continued on page two)



Birkland Family Bequest

In June, By Their Side received a \$151,000 bequest from the Birkland Trust, which has been invested to support the organization's promise of lifelong advocacy for its members. John and Laura Birkland sponsored their daughter Melissa's membership 30 years ago. Missy lived in Hagerstown and enjoyed regular visits with her By Their Side advocate, Beverly Rill, after her parents passed away. Because we are obligated to provide services for decades to come for our members, a large reserve is an important safeguard. We are truly indebted to families like the Birklands and Safraneks for their generosity.

Introducing The Luanne Freiburtshouser Family Advocacy Support Fund

The Board of Directors is pleased to introduce the *Luanne Freiburtshouser Family Advocacy Support Fund*. This fund will help reduce the cost of advocacy for parents seeking short-term assistance. The fund was started with memorial contributions from Luanne's family, friends, and By Their Side sponsors after she passed away last year. Efforts are underway to secure a grant for its continuation. A loving mother and wife, Luanne helped to shape our advocacy program and was long dedicated to the families of By Their Side.

For more information, please contact
Kathy Vecchioni, 410-279-1234.

Lifelong Advocates for Marylanders with Developmental Disabilities

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Rebecca Rubin, LCSW-C
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Portia Willis, BSW

Community Partnerships



You may have admired Dontavius Woody's fashion-focused art work at Artscape, local community fairs, or the Arc of Baltimore's Art in the Round exhibit. When Dontavius began working with art mentor Yvonne Creighton a few years ago,

his talent was immediately evident. To date, he has earned over \$3000 through the sale of his art.

When Dontavius' By Their Side Advocate located a program for artists, Make Studio in Baltimore, he was able to work on art each Friday, but his day there was shortened by his long drive home for a g-tube feeding. Searching for a local alternative, his Advocate approached Neil McDonald, Facilities Vice President of Union Memorial Hospital. He and his colleagues graciously arranged space for Dontavius' Friday lunch, just a few minutes away from Make Studio. Dontavius is very happy to focus a full day on his work.

Like Neil McDonald and Union Memorial, Dontavius also believes in community partnership. Long interested in helping others, Dontavius is planning his next exhibit, and would like to donate some of the proceeds to help unemployed people prepare for work. We thank Neil McDonald, Union Memorial, and Dontavius Woody, for supporting their community.



A Message from Mark Wagner, Continued

be committed to meeting the commitments to our current members and their families. Our growth must be matched with our financial sustainability. We are so grateful to the families who, through bequests, have further assured that stability. By Their Side is a great organization, with dedicated Executive Director, staff, Personal Advocates and Board of Directors. Our mission is unique and as always, focused on the needs of families and their loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Resources and Opportunities

Administering a Special Needs Trust: A Handbook for Trustees by Specialneedsalliance.org. Download this overview guide or request by mail, 1-877-572-8472.

Maryland Sibling Network, now on Facebook. Network with other adult siblings familiar with Maryland services to explore questions and offer support.

Future Planning for Only Children By Their Side plans to form a focus group to explore issues and resources for parents planning for the future of a child without siblings. If you would like to serve on this group or have resources to share, please contact Kathy Vecchioni, 443-279-1234.

DDA Town Hall Meeting with Bernard Simons, director of the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). Learn DDA priorities and key initiatives, ask questions, and share your opinions. November 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., Oakland Mills Meeting House, 5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, Md.

Inspired Giving

By Their Side is a small nonprofit with an enormous mission in the eyes of the parents who fund our services. This mission has captured the attention of new donors this year who have quietly, generously offered their support.

- ◆ 18 Chubb and Son employees in several states selected By Their Side for charitable giving. Each \$50 contribution was matched by their employer.
- ◆ The Gaithersburg Theater production of The Wizard of Oz contributed 50/50 raffle proceeds.
- ◆ Speech therapists Tori Skurow and Joseph Urps honored their wedding guests with a \$500 donation.

You can help.



Have you written a review of By Their Side on GreatNonprofits.org? Our new donors found us online. Whether you are a parent, sibling, or professional who has experienced our advocacy services first hand, or are willing to share why you joined, your review can help families and donors understand the value of By Their Side's advocacy program.

Thank you!

BJ's Wholesale Club is By OUR Side



BJ's Wholesale Club presented By Their Side with an \$1800 in-kind donation this spring. After learning about our mission and needs, BJ's provided two new computers and contributed to outreach to Maryland families by donating an eye-catching lighted display board, heavy paper for print materials, and other office and computer supplies.

When BJ's Baltimore General Manager Kelly Trizzino learned about the people we serve, she also offered to be a job contact. A By Their Side member and his job coach have begun the interview process. We are indebted to Kelly and BJ's Wholesale Club for their support of By Their Side's members and their families.

Pictured L to R: By Their Side Board Member **Martin Lampe** and **Kathy Vecchioni**, Executive Director; BJ's Wholesale Club's **Dustin Lee**, Asset Manager and **Kelly Trizzino**; General Manager.

Contribution Update

We wish to thank the following for supporting our program and services (Sept 2013 - Sept 2014)

GENERAL DONATIONS

John and Pat Adams
Doug Alexander
Janice Andruck
Harvey Bair
Joseph Baranauskas
Thomas and Andrea Bender
Harry Benoit
Laura & John Birkland Trusts
BJ's Wholesale Club
Jessie Brown
Marsha S. Carow
Phyllis Cherrix & Ethel G Cherrix Trust
Joan Chevalier
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Steven Kebeck
Dr. Steve Komeh
James Lehman, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Philip Levinson
Ralph Moore
Over The Rainbow Productions
Robert C. Placious
Virginia W. Safranek Trust

Tori Skurow & Joseph Urps
Jack and Stephanie Ventura
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Wagner
William and Saqlli Ward
Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Yurow

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Attorney
Judith V. Stein
Jack and Stephanie Ventura
Amy Wagner
Dr. and Mrs. Mark L. Wagner

LUANNE FREBERTSHAUSER FAMILY ADVOCACY SUPPORT FUND

Jean Lacherby Depkin
Joan Kolobielski
Ocean Resorts Bridge Group
Dr. Philip and Winnie Levinson
Albert Pollen
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Shaefer
Kathy Vecchioni
Dr. Mark and Marcia Wagner
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Willhide
Phyllis Zumbrun

IN HONOR OF...

Martin and Barbara Lampe, on their 50th anniversary, from Marsha S. Carow
Barry Davis, our son, from Fred Davis

ON BEHALF OF...

Kerry Murphy, from Stephanie Smilay

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE 2013 ANNUAL SPONSORS MEETING

David & Delores Cacciaglia
Janet Ciesielski

Edward & Nancy Dahlka
Mary Jo Dale
Susan Eicher
Barbara & Stephen Gewirtz Israel
James & Winnie Kao
Evelyn King
Kim & Joe Knapp
Bea Kolchin
Dr. Martin & Barbara Lampe
Dr. & Mrs. Philip Levinson
Jim Mobley
Bob Palumbi
Coleen Prosser
Beverly Rill
Deloris Slavcoff
Ed & Carol Stover
Mark & Marcia Wagner
Dennis & Cynthia Zaklan

IN MEMORY OF...

Randy and Erma Bender from Thomas and Andrea Bender
Alvin and Betty Ford from Mary-Jo (Ford) Dale
Bill Eicher from Ruth E. Eicher
Maurice Y. Cole from Elsie Evans
David S. Herman from Janet L. Herman
Christine from Mrs. Joan Kolobielski
Maria-Ward Lechner from Thomas F. Lechner
Cory Moore from C.W. Misner
Raymond Starr from Ms. Janice Starr

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John Wagner
Mr. & Mrs. James Walsh

Participating in a Charity Campaign? Please consider giving to By Their Side.

#15134 Chesapeake Bay Area and National Capital Area Combined Federal Campaign; #1810 Balt. City Campaign

Meet By Their Side's Personal Advocates

All together, By Their Side's 14 part time advocates have over 370 years of advocacy experience. Most will be present at the Annual Sponsor's meeting on November 1, 2014.

Central Maryland

Marilyn Folus, M.Ed. has been a dedicated By Their Side advocate for the past 14 years. She additionally served for over 20 years as a service coordinator, special education teacher, and vocational coordinator.

Susan Buehl, M.Ed. is well known for her work with individuals and families as a service coordinator/supervisor over the past 20 years. She has focused on issues of aging and disability and also taught special education for 6 years.

Joan Rumenap, M.B.A. has 30 years of experience including work as a service coordinator and supervisor in Anne Arundel County where she also served on the Commission on Disabilities, DDA Statewide Quality Assurance Chief, and until recently special projects and advancement director of Abilities Network. Joan started this year.

Debbie Willis, B.S. worked for 30 years as a service coordinator/supervisor and in vocational and individual support service programs. Debbie left By Their Side to start a new agency but returned this year to continue as advocate for one individual who, following a health crisis, was discharged from DDA services to a nursing home.

Kathy Vecchioni, M.S.W. worked for 20 years as a service coordinator and administrator of the Arc of Frederick County's service coordination program in central and western regions. She worked on statewide initiatives such as shifting control of services to individuals and families, and assisted older parents with future planning and accessing services. A By Their Side advocate since 2006, Kathy became executive director in 2012.

Southern Maryland

Leonard Cohen, B.A. has 15 years of experience including service coordinator and job coach. He has employed individuals with disabilities in his lawn mowing business.

Mary Funk, B.A. advocates for individuals and families based on her 28 years with the Arc of Prince Georges County where she served as coordinator of Community Affairs, director of Family and Community Services, and deputy executive director.

Beatrice Rodgers, M.S.W. has contributed to this field for over 30 years including her work as executive director of several Prince Georges County organizations-- the Commission on Disabilities, the disabilities division of the Department of Family Services, and most recently Resource Connections, the resource coordination agency she started in 2003. She was appointed to two terms as the director of the Governor's Office on Individuals with Disabilities. Bea joined us at By Their Side this year.

Rebecca Rubin, L.C.S.W.-C. served for 16 years as social worker, director of social services, and program director for Jewish Foundation for Group Homes. She has also instructed DDA training courses and provided mental health counseling for 6 years.

Portia Willis, B.S.W. has worked in the field for 20 years, predominately as a resource coordinator/program manager in Montgomery County and director of a medical day/vocational program in Prince Georges County. She also served as an administrator of senior living services and works in childhood mental health services.

Eastern Shore

Paul Mysak, M. Ed. In addition to 10 years in vocational services, Paul served for 30 years as service coordinator and service coordination program director in Wicomico County. Paul started as a Personal Advocate this year.

Western Maryland

Nancy Berger, B.A. has 25 years of experience in the field as a service coordinator/supervisor in Washington County and individual support services coordinator in Frederick. She was also a social work director in a nursing home. Nancy started as a By Their Side Advocate this year.

Chris Irving, B.A. worked for the Arc of Frederick County for 24 years as a service coordinator and individual support services coordinator. She facilitated a Frederick advocacy group and serves on a guardianship board.

Beverly Rill, B.A. is well known to By Their Side families, having served the organization for over 25 years as personal advocate, director of administration, and executive director. Since retiring, she continues as personal advocate and financial coordinator.



*You are Cordially Invited to Attend
By Their Side's Annual Sponsor's Meeting and Luncheon*

Date: Saturday, November 1, 2014

Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

The program begins promptly at 10, with lunch at 12:30.

Place: The Blue Dolphin Grill, 1166 Route 3 South, #201, Gambrills, MD

The Program: Advocates at Work

*A Panel of By Their Side Advocates will discuss
examples of their work with individuals, parents, siblings, and trustees,
and the range of advocacy services they provide.*

Join the conversation!

Cost: \$20.00 per person includes hot buffet lunch

RSVP: By Monday, October 27. Please return the registration below
or contact By Their Side (443-279-1234; info@bytheirsidē.org)

Directions from Baltimore Take Interstate 97 South to Route 3 South/Crofton. Go 5 traffic lights and bear right on MD Rt. 424/Conway Rd. Go about .01 mile and make right into Princess Shopping Center

Directions from Washington Take MD Rt. 50 east towards Annapolis. Take exit 13b/MD Rt. 3 North. After 4 traffic lights, make a left onto MD Rt. 424/Conway. Go about .01 mile and make right into Princess Shopping Center.

*Parents, siblings, and By Their Side members are invited, and guests are always welcome.
We hope you will join us.*



I/We plan to attend By Their Side's Annual Sponsor's Meeting on November 1.

Name (s) _____

Address: _____

Registration enclosed (\$20/person): _____ Meal Restriction: _____

I would like to make a donation to support the Annual Meeting: _____

Please return by October 27 to:

**By Their Side
7215 York Rd Suite 352
Baltimore, MD 21212**

Behind the Scenes

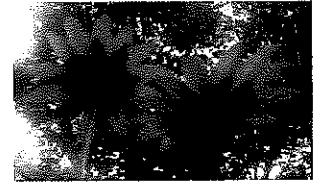
By Their Side's Board of Directors

Ever since By Their Side's founding parents formed our first volunteer Board of Directors in 1965, parents on the Board have been the driving force of our mission and services. As noted by Louise Gonzales, Estates and Trust Attorney and past Board member, "Their passion, caring, and dedication to families who have a loved one with a disability is very evident. It's not just a job, it's a mission." Currently, directors serve on working committees focused on 1) *Family Services* to implement the new Family Advocacy Support Fund for parents, support the development of the Maryland Sibling Network, and explore options for families with only children; 2) *Outreach* to help Maryland families learn about By Their Side advocacy services, 3) *Finance* to assure careful stewardship of resources, and 4) *Leadership Development* to identify future Directors. **Sponsors are invited to serve on board committees.**

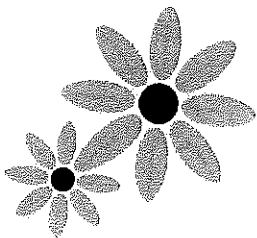
The present Board includes five parents, two siblings, one self-advocate/professional and five community members. Directors offer a broad range of experience such as finance and banking, residential and vocational services, special needs trusts and estate planning, supporting self-advocacy, mathematical physics, journalism, dentistry, linguistics, occupational therapy, theater, and raising or growing up with a relative with a disability.

Thank you, Volunteers!

Warm thanks and gratitude to Elsie Evans, Barbara Lampe, and Judy Volkman for their hours of office assistance this year. Their gift of time allows Sandie French, By Their Side's administrative assistant one day/week, to save time for other projects.



INSIDE: BY THEIR SIDE'S ANNUAL SPONSORS MEETING REGISTRATION FORM



www.ByTheirSide.org
Baltimore, MD 21212
7215 York Road #352
Lifelong Advocates for Marylanders
with Developmental Disabilities

