



# reaching out

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## From the President of By Their Side, Martin Lampe

I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself, my family, and why By Their Side plays such an important role in our lives.

My wife Barbara and I, both 69, live in Prince George's County and we have two children. Will, at 28, this August, has Down Syndrome. He lives with us and works full time as a landscaper on a supported employment mobile crew run by Melwood. He has a gazillion interests and activities, and we think he is doing just great! Bekkah, two years younger, just finished a master's degree in California, and has just begun a new job at the University of Kansas. Up to the moment when Will was born, Barbara and I both spent most of our waking hours on our careers, me a physicist and Barbara as an attorney, but we soon found that we each now had a second career, as disability advocates. I have 17 years on the board of The Arc of Prince George's County (two as president), and many years on the governing board of Special Olympics Prince George's County, and Barbara just concluded a ten year stretch as executive director of the National Apostolate of Inclusion Ministry, which advocates for inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in the Catholic Church.

We did an estate plan when Will was a baby, but we realized about ten years ago that it was out of date and had to be redone. But we just couldn't get ourselves to do it. There was one issue that we just couldn't figure out. If we put some

money into a special needs trust for Will, who would oversee it and make sure it was used in the best possible way to improve his life? And even more scary, if anything were to happen to us unexpectedly, who would advocate for him and make sure he was placed in a good residential placement? Bekkah is committed to her brother, but who knew where she would be living or what her commitments would be, or if she would have the expertise to help Will through the disability support system? When we heard about By Their Side (MTRC at the time), it was like a breath of fresh air, as if a 200 pound weight had been lifted off our backs. It was the last piece of the puzzle. We named Bekkah and a bank as joint trustees, and we wrote into our will that they should depend on By Their Side to follow Will's life, make sure that he was in good placements and receiving good services, and make detailed recommendations on using money from the trust to meet Will's needs. It is such a relief to have this support system in place!

We've also found that By Their Side can help with our present lives. Two years ago there were some reorganization problems at Will's supported employment provider, and we were very concerned about Will's situation there. We used By Their Side's supplemental services to have Kathy Vecchioni, one of By Their Side's Personal Advocates, come to the meetings with us and act as our advisor and advocate. She was a tremendous help, and everything worked out very well. If you ever find yourself in this kind of situation and needing help, I would advise you to ask By Their Side for help. It is well worth the hourly charge for these services.

(Cont'd Inside)



## Lifelong Advocates for Marylanders with Developmental Disabilities

### Executive Committee:

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

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Beverly Rill, Executive Director  
Laurie Dahlka, Admin. Asst.

### Board Members:

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### Personal Advocates:

Leonard Cohen  
Marilyn Folus  
Luanne Frebretshauser  
Linda Golob  
John Iaquina  
Kathy Vecchioni  
Debbie Willis

(From The President—Cont'd)

When we joined By Their Side, I certainly wasn't expecting to become a board member or an officer, but I did meet our professional staff and the people on the board. The board all serve as volunteers, and they are mostly parents or siblings. In an organization as small as By Their Side, there is a lot of work for the board to do, and I was tremendously impressed with their dedication and their competence. I guess they liked me too, because before I knew it I was invited to join the board, and

I consider it a great honor, and because our family is depending on By Their Side, I am determined to help our organization to thrive.

I suspect that many of our board members, and many of you, have the same kind of story to tell and are depending on By Their Side in similar ways. We always need new people to serve on our committees and our board. If you would like to help By Their Side, please contact me (martinlampe2@gmail.com or 301-277-6665) or our executive director, Beverly Rill, and let us know.



## Doing Good One Search or One Purchase at a Time!

By Kim Knapp, Chairman of Education Committee



### **Supporters of *By Their Side* are raising funds just by searching the Internet and shopping online!**

What if even a fraction of the billions of dollars generated by search engine advertisers and online shopping was directed towards helping *By Their Side*? Well it can be. *By Their Side* has teamed up with GoodSearch.com and GoodShop.com to do just that!

With GoodShop.com, you can help *By Their Side* by shopping on-line at more than 1,600 well known retailers including Target, Apple, Macy's, Best Buy, Orbitz, Staples and others. The shopping experience and the prices are exactly the same as going to the retailer directly, but by going through GoodShop, up to 30% of the purchase price is donated to our cause!

In addition, for every search conducted on the Yahoo and Bing-powered GoodSearch.com search engine, approximately one penny is donated to *By Their Side*. Use it exactly like any other search engine, but with GoodSearch, the pennies add up quickly! Just 500 people searching four times a day will earn approximately \$7,300 a year! And, it doesn't cost the users a thing! *It's a form of philanthropy that works for everyone in this tough economy!*

*By Their Side* plans on using the money raised from these programs to help pay for operating costs thus reducing the amount we may need to transfer from other funds. *To date we have earned approximately \$55 and that's with only two or three members. Imagine what we could earn if we all help! This really works. We received a check last October for \$15 after joining 4 months earlier.*

"Every penny counts", says *Kim Knapp, Secretary* of *By Their Side* "While doing a search or shopping online why not raise money for our cause? There is absolutely no reason not to use GoodSearch and GoodShop - it's so easy" To get started, go to this webpage to find out how: <http://www.goodsearch.com>. Enter *By Their Side* as the charity you want to support, then click on the Spread the Word link on the left for ways to help spread the word, like emails you can send to your friends, toolbar extensions that can be added to your browser or signature blocks for your emails.

"We know there are a lot of people who want to do good but may not have the time or the money to help out." said Ken Ramberg, Co-Founder of GoodSearch and former President of JOBTRAK, the largest online career site for college students (now a division of Monster.com). "GoodSearch and GoodShop make it as easy as possible. We've taken something people do every day -- searching the Internet and shopping online -- and turned it into doing good."

**What would happen to your son or daughter if one day you were not here to provide ongoing information to his or her care provider? Being prepared for any family situation is so important. Please review the insert in this newsletter and create a Binder that will help family and care providers when you are no longer here. And, make sure someone in the family, or a close friend, knows where to locate the Binder in an emergency.**

# The Importance of Staying Connected Through Facebook and By Their Side Website

By Colleen Sinclair Prosser, Public Relations Committee



In today's society it's important to be connected. The Internet provides multiple sources of information, but there are few websites that allow people to come together with a common need. Social media websites are just that. Social. They are a great place for people to come together to find and share information.



People want to share their experiences. They want to know they are not alone. This is why the By Their Side Facebook page is so important. Through blogging, posting and discussion boards it gives our members a place to ask questions, share their knowledge and connect with others to give and gain support. The Facebook wall is also a good place for posting links to new information and resources for our members. We currently have 30 members on our Facebook page and it is our hope you will soon become a fan!

With so many websites vying for your attention, it is important to stay abreast of current and new sources of support that can be provided to our families. It is our commitment to keep you updated on current news concerning our membership through our website, [www.bytheirsideside.org](http://www.bytheirsideside.org). Please visit our site regularly. With By Their Side, you and your loved ones will never be alone.

## CONTRIBUTION UPDATE

### DONATIONS

Patricia Adams  
Richmond Allan  
Mr. & Mrs. David Baca  
Mr. & Mrs. James Benjamin  
Harry Benoit  
Janka Bialek  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bowery  
J. Darby Bowman  
Bill & Anne Buchanan  
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Mr. & Mrs. David Cacciaglia  
Marsha S. Carow  
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George Chekan  
Mark Chevalier  
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Jeff & Laurie Dahlka  
Edith G. Daman  
Helen Dance  
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John & Dottie Slavcuff  
Barbara T. Smith  
R.H. & Janice Starr  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Stover  
Mr. & Mrs. C.H. Tseronis  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Ventura  
Dr. Rolando Vieta  
Mr. & Mrs. George Volkman  
Jim & Jeanne Walsh  
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Wagner  
William D. Ward  
Sherwood Wong  
Harvey & Marion Yurow

### IN HONOR OF . . .

Michael Cashwell, from Robert & Sue Davison  
By Their Side Staff, from Melanie Gardner  
Rick Depkin at Christmas, from Richard and Sandy Depkin  
Robert Dunker, from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dunker, Jr.  
L. David Ford and Marilyn Folus, from Mary Jo Dale  
Martin Lampe, By Their Side President, from Nancy Rhead  
Rob & Ellen Lazovick's First Anniversary, from Judith Stein  
Thomas P. Rapisarda, from Mr. & Mrs. Frank Rapisarda  
Elizabeth Schneider, from John Simkins III Trust  
Allen Schwartz, from Morton B. Prince

Mary A. Stauffer, from Edward Stauffer  
Russell Steele's birthday, from Mr. & Mrs. Byron Steele  
Elsie Ziepolt, from her father, Robert Ziepolt

### IN MEMORY OF . . .

Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Cherrix, from their daughter, Phyllis Cherrix  
Julian & Susan Ederer, from Fred & Hilda Ederer  
William Eicher, from Ruth Eicher  
Ben & Edith Gould, from Susan Brome  
Robert S. Heise, from Nadine Heise  
David S. Herman, from Janet L. Herman  
Edna Knapp, from Kim & Joe Knapp,  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Miller, Colleen Wade, Beverly & Jim Rill, and Alexis & Maurice Davis  
Richard Kolchin, from Beatrice Kolchin  
Frank Kutcher, from Mary Kutcher  
William & Gertrude Lampe, from Martin & Barbara Lampe  
Maria-Waid Lechner, from Thomas Lechner  
Florence Lehman, from her son, James Lehman, Jr.  
Eleanor Palumbi, from Robert Palumbi  
Edward Patigalia, from Barbara Patigalia  
Kadee Perry, from Luanne & Bob Frebertshauser  
Tim Quinn, from Richard Depkin  
Rachel Rosenhouch, from Mr. & Mrs. Herman Rose  
Virginia Safranek, from Guy Safranek

Allen Schepps, from Hanna Schepps  
Christine Sobel, from her mother, Joan Kolobielski  
Margaret Virginia Summers, from James Summers  
Stephen & Jane Zaklan, from Dennis & Cynthia Zaklan

### CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Dorothy & Joe Baranauskas  
Avis & Carlton Brown  
Alise Burriss  
Marsha Carow  
Janet & Ed Ciesielski  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Dahlka  
Sandy & Richard Depkin  
Caroline Hoffman  
Mr. & Mrs. James Kao  
Joan Karasik  
Mr. & Mrs. Thurmus King  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Knapp  
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Robert F. Palumbi  
Nancy M. Rhead  
Mr. & Mrs. John Slavcuff  
Ilene Solomon  
Carol & Edward Stover  
Margaret M. Ulle

**Your response is greatly appreciated by those we serve.**

***By Their Side has been approved by 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).***

## News from our Personal Advocates



Please join us as we welcome **Debbie Willis** to our team of Personal Advocates. Debbie has worked in the developmental disabilities field since 1983 and was with Service Coordination for over 23 years. She presently works as a Program Manager at Fidelity Resources in Baltimore. Debbie will be providing advocacy for individuals in the counties of Baltimore, Howard, and Anne Arundel.

There are now 279 individuals in By Their Side's program. Of these, 69 are receiving the basic active service of once a year visit due to the death of their sponsors. 17 individuals are receiving ongoing case management services via Supplemental Service contracts. Our families live in all areas of Maryland with the majority living in the central and southern regions of the state.

We are saddened to report that one of our longtime friends passed away on April 10, 2011. Philip William Chase, III, (known to us as "Toppo") was receiving ongoing visits from our Personal Advocate, Kathy Vecchioni. Upon the death of his parents, Toppo's brother contracted for these services under the Supplemental Service plan. Since Toppo's brother lived out of state, Kathy visited Toppo and reported her findings by email, thus keeping the line of communication strong between the brothers. In a final letter to By Their Side, Toppo's brother writes, *"We would especially like to recognize and thank Kathy. Her knowledge, insight and tender relationship with Toppo was a huge comfort to us. Knowing from a 3rd party how he was doing at points in time was truly helpful. And, it was obvious that Toppo liked and trusted her. During the beginning of Toppo's acute illness, Kathy's first hand accounts of how he was doing in the hospital helped us to make the decisions that we needed to make. Her moral support while we were dealing with the confusion and heartache of Toppo being so sick and in the hospital was reassuring and comforting. Thank you for the work you all do. For families like ours where we could not be on hand to monitor Toppo on a daily or even monthly basis, your service is invaluable."* Toppo, we will miss you.

Join us on Saturday, **November 5, 2011**, for By Their Side's  
**ANNUAL SPONSORS MEETING and LUNCHEON**



The program this year is one requested by our families to assist with "Passing the Torch" to others in the future. The Hamilton Family, along with By Their Side's professionals, will give you information you need to develop a plan for your family. This is a "DON'T MISS" meeting for siblings. Updated information from DDA regarding the changes for requesting service will also be on the agenda.

More information will be mailed in September



Lifelong Advocates for Marylanders  
with Developmental Disabilities

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[www.ByTheirSide.org](http://www.ByTheirSide.org)

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