

LANGLEY LETTER

VOLUME 26

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Betsy's Byline

It's 1988, or perhaps 1998. Your family member just graduated from high school and you assume that he or she will get a job, and even move out and become more independent with the help of Langley Residential Support Services.

Congratulations to Betsy

Langley Residential Support Services celebrates Betsy Schatz's Twentieth Anniversary as Director.

This fall, Betsy Schatz celebrates her twentieth anniversary with Langley Residential Support Services. To commemorate this milestone, The Board of Directors is planning a Pot Luck Supper for Betsy and consumers and their families on Saturday, November 15, 2008.

Fast Forward to 2008. You can't take any of that for granted any more. Services have been cut, some of them severely. Many graduates are put on waiting lists. Many caregivers are forced to consider leaving their jobs to care for their loved ones. When there have been budget shortfalls in the past, family members of graduates have always been hit the hardest. I think we are close to that situation now.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENT: CELEBRATION POT LUCK

Pot Luck Supper to commemorate Betsy's Twentieth Anniversary with LRSS.

PLACE McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER

DATE & TIME : SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 6PM

SPECIAL EVENT : CHRISTMAS HONEY BAKED HAM SALE

Part of the proceeds will benefit Langley Residential Support Services.

PLACE , DATE & TIME: EARLY DECEMBER

LOOK FOR OUR FLYER IN THE MAIL AND ON OUR WEBSITE.

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) has been

instructed by the County Executive to prepare a list of budget reductions of 15% of their current budget, over \$16 million. For Mental Retardation Services, that will amount to somewhere between \$5 and \$5.5 million. These cuts are in addition to the recurring 4% reduction that the County imposed for FY 2009, to continue in FY 2010. Once again, services to some of our most vulnerable citizens are in jeopardy.

Your involvement in the process of fighting for funding is critical. Even the money Langley receives now does not fully meet the rising cost of essential



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items like food, utilities, and gas, never mind staff pay raises to make sure that we can hire and retain professional staff.

We need your help! We continue to need your generous financial support, but we also need you to become involved in advocating for our consumers so that the CSB does not have to start reducing services to those people who depend upon their support. Please contact your county supervisor. In addition, please call the CSB and ask how to contact your local CSB representative. Their number is 703-324-4400. **Your support is critical.**



Special Olympics Basketball Go Team Langley!

Winter is always a great time of year because it's BASKETBALL SEASON! While the Washington Wizards and Mystics create a buzz around the DC region, so does Team Langley competing in the Special Olympics! Langley put together an all-star team that competed hard while always remembering the number one objective—TO HAVE FUN!

Langley's team was made up of the following athletes: Greg, Stacey, Debby, Cindy, Angela, Kayvan, and others who came from time to time. Practices started in late

November and ran through March. Langley was part of the "Group Home League" that held practices every Wednesday night at a middle school in Alexandria, Virginia. During practices, athletes practiced dribbling, passing, and shooting skills. The highlight of practices was always the half-court scrimmages against the other teams.

Team Langley also had the opportunity to compete locally in several half-court tournaments, including: The Loudon Invitational Pool Play Tournament, the Area 26 Tournament, and the North Central Sectional Invitational. Langley, in their professional-looking purple Special Olympics jerseys, won a game in each tournament and was a force to be reckoned with! Greg, never without the red bandana around his head, was always in the double digits in scoring. Stacey and Cindy had deadly accurate shots. Debby and Angela provided key defense, while Kayvan showed off his passing ability. Team Langley fans made "Go Langley" signs and cheered them on. The whole team received tournament t-shirts and ribbons for a job well done. They even got to meet Mrs. Galaxy, a beauty pageant winner, at one of the basketball tournaments!

In the end, the Langley team was chosen as the 1st alternate to the State Tournament, meaning if one of the two teams chosen couldn't participate, then Langley would go. Team Langley didn't end up going to States, but it was still a very successful season—a lot of basketball skills were gained and smiles flashed abundantly around the court! Team Langley can't wait until next basketball season!

By: Kelly Wolfe





Bruce Canaga Retires

Over the years one of the Langley’s strengths has been its Board of Directors. Currently, the board has 11 members, and we expect to add additional members in the coming months. They vary in professional backgrounds, ages, and expertise, and they provide our Director, Betsy Schatz, with valuable support. Langley is fortunate to have the continued support of willing, and capable board members.

As we head into the future, the board will be searching for ways to reach out to the community for improvements in our housing situation. We currently own one of the four homes where our consumers reside, and we are always looking to improve housing situations and the quality of life for our consumers. In a high cost area like Fairfax County, this is a considerable challenge. Making our identity and activities better known within the community is another board priority. This newsletter, along with increased publicity and community awareness, should make our mission better known to Fairfax County residents.

I have just completed 10 years on the Langley Board, most of those as Chairman. Judy Yolles will assume the chair of the Langley board. As a long time board member, she is well qualified to provide the necessary leadership to help our organization meet future challenges.

Being a part of Langley has been a rewarding and very satisfying experience. I plan to continue being an active Langley supporter.

Bruce Canaga
Newly Retired Chairman, Board of Directors

*Bruce,
Thank you so much for all your hard work and for all the support you have given to all of us in our efforts to serve our consumers.*

Talents Shine at the Langley All-Star Talent Show

Langley consumers always look forward to their chance to take the stage at the annual talent contest. On May 17th, Trinity United Methodist Church in McLean was the place to be! Chairs were filled with eager audience members, who filled the hall with laughs, smiles, and applause.

With the help of the Junior League of Washington, Langley Committee, the contestants practiced their acts every Tuesday night for months during “Book Club.” All of their hard work and practice certainly paid off as there wasn’t a dull moment during the entire show. Some contestants decided to show off their singing abilities while others



showcased their best dance moves. Acts ranged from a duo of chefs who made a healthy taco salad, to a juggler who was able to keep 3 balls in the air at the same time. Even Yankee Doodle himself and Bill Cosby were represented on stage! The creativity of the contestants was amazing.

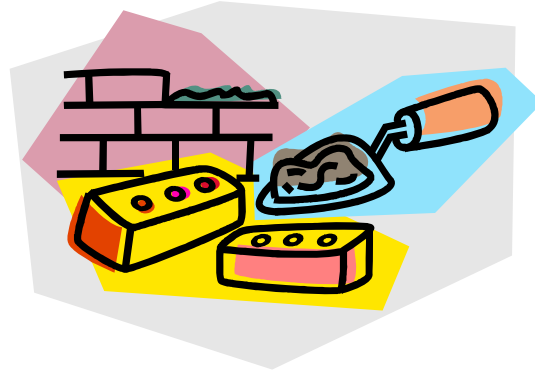
Judges presented each contestant with a medal representing an individualized award. Some of the many awards included: Top Chef, Best Moonwalker, Most Patriotic, and Funniest Comedian. After the awards were handed out, a special encore presentation of "Take Me out to the Ball Game" was sung by all contestants. By the end of the song, all audience members had joined in the singing. The song fit in perfectly to the All-Star theme of the entire event. Afterwards, contests and audience mingled while enjoying some traditional baseball snacks of pretzels, hot dogs, cotton candy, and more! The success of the event left audience members wondering: How are they going to top that next year?

Congratulations to all the volunteers and consumers who were involved! And thanks to everyone who came and made the event so special.

By: Kelly Wolfe



We would like to express our gratitude to all those who have donated their time, talent and energy to Langley Residential Support Services during this past year. Thank you, we could not have done it without you.



We would also like to thank our Brick Brigade, all those listed below contributed to our Brick by Brick Fund.

Alia Isabel Iribarren Hassan
Anne Marie & Ardin Goss
Betsy Schatz
Betsy Walsh
Bruce Canaga
Carly Coho
Clint & Kathy Hall
Cory Christian Wedworth
Dale & Demetra Matthews
Don Beyer
Donna I offredo & PJ Hambrick
For Ginny Bauer
Friendship Class – Vienna Presbyterian Church
Herbert Spencer Yolles
In Honor of Dr. Michael S. DeRose
In Memory of Deborah Raddock
In Memory of Yolanda Maddux
Jennifer & Christopher Ackerman
Jihan & Jose Iribarren
Joanne Heininger
John J & Elizabeth Norman



John & Joy Lipsey
John & Judith Carlson
Judith A Leduc
Judith Ann Yolles
Julia Anna Yolles
Kamlesh Verma
Kathleen Partoyan
Kyle Daniel Yolles
Martha Johnson
Mary & Bob Likeman
Maxine Chiavetta
Michael & Julia Ioffredo
Michael & Karen Ioffredo
Michelle & Ed Schultze
Omar Sherif Hassan
Pam Gannon
Paul Marquardt & His Family
Robert Lipsey & Cinda Berry
Schubert Johnson
Sherif & Dorothy Hassan
The Baldwin Family
The Mathews Family
Tracy Abbot
Virginia Chiu
Wendy & Scott Boiles

Money collected from this fundraiser will be used to make repairs and improvements in our homes. To become a member of the Langley Residential Brick Brigade, just complete the attached Brick by Brick form and mail with your contribution to:

LRSS
1487 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 200
McLean, VA 22101

Also, thanks to:

*Betsy Schatz, Executive Director, and the entire Langley Residential Support Services Board of Directors:
Judy Yolles, Carly Coho, Michael DeRose, Meti Fekadu, Ardin Goss, Dorothy Hassan, Joanne Heininger, Ellen Lee, Carol Mournighan, Maureen Ryan, Scott Smith, Betsy Walsh, and Kelly Wolfe.*



Langley Residential Support Services will be sending you a newsletter four times each year as part of our outreach efforts to friends and the community. We will also place it on our website and send electronic copies to all those on our email list. **Our next newsletter will come out in winter.** If anyone would like to receive this newsletter or contribute an article or picture, please email Carol @ carol.mournighan@verizon.net.

